

**The Diaries of Hiram Corson, M.D.**  
(1804 – 1896)

Transcribed, edited and annotated

By

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**Volume II**

**January 1, 1878 – December 31, 1889**

## Introduction

Dr. Corson's public awareness throughout his long life is reflected in his diaries. His wide range of interests is apparent in his recorded observations of regional, national and international events which give much insight into the man and the times in which he lived. The detailed information about his activities in promoting public health and improving the care of the mentally ill make for interesting reading. For more than thirty years he worked for the better care for the mentally ill. In 1877, Pennsylvania Governor Hartranft appointed Dr. Hiram Corson to the Board of Trustees of the State Lunatic Asylum at Harrisburg "in recognition of his life-long interest and zealous efforts in behalf of the insane."

The reader may find that at times Dr. Corson seemed to be almost obsessed with recording in minute detail his heart troubles. Corson himself stated in Volume III, July 3, 1894, "The reader may think I say too much about my palpitations. I do it, that if any one should like to study it, they can in my diaries of half a century get some conception of it, not spoken of in medical books." The description of his symptoms give the best insight into what patients experience who suffer from Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome and reciprocating tachycardias of the regular narrow QRS type involving AV node and an accessory pathway.

In this volume Dr. Corson also provides us with a small glimpse into the patron of the arts, Robbins Battell of Norwalk, Connecticut, who commissioned Thomas Hovenden to paint the "Last Moments of John Brown."

## 1878

January 1: Tuesday.

A clear, cool morning. Mary, our daughter, her mother and myself up at 6 ½ A.M. Ann, our good faithful "help" for 40 or more years, had breakfast nearly ready. This day is by a Law enacted a few years since a "Legal Holiday."

10 P.M. I have been busy today, besides my regular practice, have had a consultation with Dr. Newbury [Dr. Milton Newberry] of Whitemarsh in the case of an important kind. The lady is very anxious that I alone shall attend her, but as Dr. N. has been in attendance, I cannot consent to it, and indeed I think he has done well for her. I shall visit every other day. I have been reading and writing all the evening. Wife has been writing letters to her daughters. Mary is busy lining and covering boxes. Beautiful she makes them, by means of some black paper, a little paste and some pictures bought to paste on top & sides.

My eyes ache this evening, so will have to stop and sit in the corner, in the old Ann chair more than a hundred years old. (I am now here at the table, in my Father's [chair] which is nearly if not quite that age), or go to bed.

January 4: Friday.

Yesterday after a busy morning "practice," I left Sp. Mill for Philad. in the one P.M. train. At Columbia Av. stopped & went a few squares to see a patient, Mr. John Klauder. Afterwards took the 6<sup>th</sup> St. Car, to Follen's office, 229 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St., where I met a

man who owed Robt. & myself nearly a thousand Dollars. After a short time with Follen & him in the office and Court rooms, I went up to Frannie's. While there talking with her & Mary, was taken with palpitation. We at once started for the Cars, as we had but little time to spare and I had to walk slowly. At ¼ to 5, we moved off & Frannie went back. It was a pretty great task to sit up all the way home; but I got along pretty well with Mary. It cont'd. till 3 o'clock this morning. I took nothing at all in the medicine way, and feel a great deal better this morning than I generally have done when I have taken Morph., Digitalis, &c.

It is snowing rapidly now. "Little Carrie" & "Samie" Cresson are here now. Carrie's school has vacation till next Monday. Carrie is helping her grandmother greatly in doing little things for her.

January 13: Sunday.

8 o'clock. I have been busy in Practice since last writing. Last Wednesday at 4 P.M. after a busy day's work, I left Bridgeport in company with Aaron Styer, who desired to go with me to the State Asylum, at Harrisburgh, to see his sister. We reached Harrisburgh at 8 ½ and took lodging at the "Lochiel." After supper I met Dr. Luther, Special, or Genl. Agent of the Board of Public Charity, and Mahlon H. Dickinson, also one of the Board. It was the first time Mr. Dickinson and I have ever met, though we are descendants of the same family. His father and my mother being gd.children of the same person.

After the close of the meeting of the Board on [the] next day (Thursday)[sic], I left Harrisburgh at 3:53 P.M. alone (Mr. Styer having gone a few hours before) for home, when one mile above Reading, just as night was closing in on us, I was taken with palpitation. I had to exchange Cars at Reading and fortunately those coming to Norristown were nearly empty, so that I (having a soft blanket-lap with me) could lie down on my left side on one seat and put my feet on the one in front. In that way I laid pretty comfortably all the way to Norristown. There John met me at 8 ¼ P.M. & brought me rapidly home. I took some supper & went to bed at 10 P.[M.]. At 12 midnight I awaked well.

Since that [time] I have been very busy in good practice. Received a letter yesterday from Robert Rambo that he would call on me this afternoon. Was compelled to go out after dinner, and on my return found him waiting for me. He came to see if I would not go to Norristown to examine Carey Ball, who is seeking a pardon, on ground of ill-health, from an imprisonment of 10 years. Judge Ross had seen George Lear, the Attorney General of the State and he, Lear, told him, [the] Judge, he would have him pardoned if Hiram Corson would say his life was endangered by the imprisonment. Mr. Rambo says Mr. Lear will ask me to make the examination before the 13<sup>th</sup> of February, when the Board of Pardons will meet.

Mary is in the City, so "mother," Follen & self all are alone. We have spent the evening in the parlor, until I began writing.

January 14: Monday.

Have practice a great deal today, & was at Norristown towards evening to see about some business operations. Did not go to the Prison to see Carey Ball. Got home

by six. After supper went to attend a call to F. Ramsay's. Brought Helen home with me to stay all night. We are lonely without Mary.

January 15: Tuesday.

10 P.M. Have ridden all day. Visited 15 families at great distances, very sick many of them, all good, responsible patients; feel well & not weary at all. Wife is crocheting & Helen, who has come over to stay all night with us is lying on the lounge, not being very well and having taken some cinchonoidia [sic].<sup>i</sup>

January 16: Wednesday.

Practiced in the forenoon. At 1 P.[M.] took wife with me to Norristown, she to visit friends, or "make calls," I to attend the medical meeting of our County Society. Wm. and myself are the only members living who participated in its first meeting, and who were originators of it. Had an excellent attendance. Dr. Bradly [Charles Bradley] read a paper on Tuberculosis, and read a very remarkable case, which had been many years ago pronounced incurable and certain to die in a month from the time he was seen by Dr. Pawling, but which recovered and is now a robust, healthy man, even Dr. Bradly himself [said], the cure [was] effected by Dr. Wm. Corson.

We got home by 6 ½ P.M. and found Follen had walked up from Sp. Mill.

January 17: Thursday.

Up at 6 ¼. At 7 ¼ started with Follen to Conshohocken that he might take the early train to Philad. Saw several patients. Cont'd. the whole day in active practice. Since supper have written till now, 9 ½ P.M. Mary being in Philad., we have no family but ourselves & Ann, our old & faithful domestic who has served us for about 40 years. In the day time we have a boy who lives with us, and a Farmer and man of all work, who has a family and lives in our tenant-house and boards at home.

January 18: Friday.

Practiced till 2 P.M., then went to Norristown to deposit some money & settled with John J. Corson for various items. Spent an hour with William, &c.

January 19: Saturday.

Practiced from early morn till 3 P.[M.], then went to Norristown to see Judge Ross and to consult him about the Alms-House, Jail, &c., in which he is now taking a lively and commendable interest. I spoke to him also about Netty Dewees and others in the State Hospital who have been there for years apparently well, but who have no homes to return to. I made some suggestions for their relief & permanent retirement from the Hospital which he greatly approved. He is very desirous that I shall visit Carey Ball, who was sentenced by him to a long term, 10 years, and after examining him to report by private letter to George Lear, Attorney General of the State. Judge Ross & Mr. Lear are very desirous to have him out, at least if he is like[ly] to die.

Jay & Susan brought Follen up this evening and at 9 ½ P.[M.] returned home leaving him here. My Niece, Helen Corson, the Artist has been quite poorly today. My patrons, four of them, have paid me \$327.00 already this month. It is now 10:35 P.M. and all are in bed.

Rec'd. a letter from my friend Dr. E. A. Wood of Pittsburgh today in which he proposes to send me his 2<sup>nd</sup> Novel, or book rather, in Manuscript, if I will say that I would like to read it. His first manuscript has been in the hands of Lippincotts) for some time, but declined to run the risk of publishing it. On learning that from Dr. Wood, I advised him to place it with "Roberts Brothers" in Boston who publish the "No Name" series. He is now corresponding with them. I will write to him that it will give me real pleasure to read his M[anuscript], and so, by this time next week I hope to have it to read. To bed.

January 26: Saturday.

Since last writing a week ago, I have been very busy, in addition to my ordinary practice. My Niece, Helen Corson, has been ill with affection of the brain. It has given me considerable extra labor and a deal of anxiety. Dr. Ellwood, her brother, has been with me in the case, and now after pretty active treatment, [viz.] leeches, blisters, ice to head, hair cut off, &c., she is better and I hope out of danger.

I have also been up to see brother Charles, who is quite ill at his home within the junctions of the Skippack and Perkiomen Creeks in Lower Providence Tp. I was there on Tuesday and on that day he had reached his 77<sup>th</sup> year. I think he will live but a short time, a few months at most, possibly only a few days, if his leg, which is fearfully swelled as in Phlegmasia Dolens, should not improve speedily.

I found myself with quite a bad cold next morning after being up there, and next night I was so greatly occupied with Helen's case that I could not sleep for thinking about it.

On Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> at noon, I was taken with palpitation at B[arren] Hill, while examining a patient. I came home quickly, John was driving for me that day, and laid down, but it cont'd. Several times persons came for me but I could not go. I was wretched. At 11 ½ P.M., after it had cont'd. just 12 hours, it passed off. I have been quite far from well since, but practiced all day yesterday, though I scarcely ate anything. Yesterday, 24<sup>th</sup>, Ida came from Washington to see her Sister Helen, & to nurse her. 9 o'clock. I was pretty poorly last night. I mean I was not well and that is to be miserable. I had no appetite today till supper-time when I made a good supper with mother, and Aunt Harriet Foulke who arrived at 5 P.M. to stay a few weeks with us. I have been writing all the evening of various matters, fixing up all matters of the week, and an article for the Newspaper, on the duties of the physician to the Alms-House.

Follen came at 7 P.M. to stay till morning.

January 27: Sunday.

Evening. Was compelled to see several patients this forenoon. I was quite tired early in the morning and that feeling cont'd. After dinner Follen and myself rode to Norristown. I called on Doctor J. O. Knipe and asked him to go with us to the Jail. Judge Ross, Mr. Lear, Attorney Genl. of the State, and Charles Hunsicker, Mr. Carey Ball's attorney, are desirous that I shall examine the prisoner C. Ball and give Mr. Lear my opinion whether or not his life is in great and immediate peril, as his friends are asking for a pardon on the ground of ill health. But I was desirous to have Dr. Knipe share the responsibility with me, he being my associate on the Board of Visitors to the Jail. So we went to the prison & while Follen looked through the prison with the

Warden, we examined Mr. Ball in the Warden's sitting room, where he spends his time with the family, or alone keeping the access.

At, or by his request on leaving, we visited his attorney and had the subject canvassed. Mr. Ball is an uncommonly smart young man, was cashier of Hatboro Bank & used some of the funds to speculate with, was unlucky, could not replace it, so went away for a few days, then returned, confessed & as far as he could, made restitution. Judge Ross, a school mate & friend from a motive which no one can derive, sentenced him to 10 years at hard labor in the County Jail. He is now very desirous to have him out. They all tell me that on my certificate or letter to Geo. Lear, Atty. Genl., the decision will turn. This is too great a trial for me, for I discover no disease about him, save an anemic condition, and even his pallor & want of flesh are said to be quite natural to him; he has always been pale and thin. But I am very tired tonight, and will not attempt to write to Lear. It is nearly 9 P.[M.] and I will retire.

January 28: Monday.

Evening. Rose at 7 A.M., weary and feeling as though I could not do much today. Follen was ready at 7:20 to go to Philad. and as I could not, or did not desire to go, John took him to Conshohocken.

January 29: Tuesday.

Practiced today, but not hard. Have this evening corrected a manuscript written in favor of the appointment of a physician made by the Poor Directors, and which has been opposed by another party disappointed in receiving it, and have written more than three pages on Circumstantial Evidence to be published in [the] Norristown Herald.

I also rec'd. a letter today from a man, Thomas C. Murphy, of 1534 East Montgomery Avenue, Philad. He is a stranger to me. I quote part of his letter:

“Dr. Hiram Corson. Dear Sir:

Many favors have been sought from you, and from your accredited Character I am sure that they have been cheerfully given. Permit me to ask one in behalf of my son Wm. R. Murphy. He is a young Lawyer, a Member of the Bar, both in Montgomery Co. and in this City (Philad.). He desires a letter of introduction from you to Judge Yerkes with such Commendation as you can honestly give.

Perhaps you may remember that he was associated with Mr. Rogers in the trial of John Pistorius [sic]. Should you deem it necessary, you can ask Mr. Rogers in regard to him. Your kindness to him will be regarded as done to myself. A letter would reach him if addressed to my residence, 1534 East Montgomery Avenue, Philad. Yours very Sincerely,

Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> 1878      Thos. C. Murphy”

January 30: Wednesday.

Practiced till noon. “Mother,” Aunt H. and myself went in the big carriage to Norristown, John, the man, driving. I met Dr. Knipe by appointment and drew up and signed a certificate to the Attorney Gen'l. for a pardon for Carey S. Ball, which I enclosed in a letter to Lear this evening. We got home at sunset. I have written three

letters this evening, one to a minister, a stranger to me (mentioned above), one to Jos., one to Lear.

January 31: Thursday.

10 P.M. It has been greatly snowing all day, a fierce snow storm. I went out to a few places in the early morning, John driving for me. Since that have read a great deal, and have this evening written a piece for the papers on "Montgomery County's Suffering Child," a little fellow about 12 years old who has been locked in cells there "off and on," for years, sometimes chained to the leg. Have also written several letters and read reports of Meetings, & Institutions for the Insane.

"Mother" and Aunt Harriet have been steady as clock-work at various kinds of sewing and are still at it, stopping now & then to talk.

February 1: Friday.

Good sleighing, though some roads are greatly drifted. The one in front of our home [was] impassable all day. We had a good road across our field to the Conshohocken Road.

Did not practice much. John went with the sleigh for Follen in the evening. I do not feel very well, so will retire. There was another fearful shipwreck on the N. Carolina Coast, yesterday afternoon, during that fierce East Storm. The Steamer Metropolis of the New Brazil Line sprung a leak, and they run it ashore. About 250 [out of 1000] lost.

February 2: Saturday.

Practiced some. Went to Norristown to see Wm., &c., sleighing.

February 3: Sunday.

Went in the morning with wife to see Daughter Susan, who was not well yesterday. Immediately after eating dinner, I went to the office & took a quite small dose of Sulph. Magnesia, thinking it would by purging relieve a headache, a very slight one. The water was quite cold & I put a good deal on the salts and after I drank it, immediately was attacked by palpitation. Went to bed for 2 hours, then got up and went several miles with Follen to see a patient, but said nothing to him about my affection, and yet I was scarcely able to walk. After we got home I went to bed again after taking 25 drops Tinct. Digitalis. Took no supper. At one o'clock on Monday morning, I took ½ gr. Sulph. Morph., and at 3 A.M. it left me.

February 8: Friday.

Since Monday the roads have been pretty bad and I have avoided doing what could be avoided. I rec'd. on Tuesday a letter from Dr. Kerlin, to whom I had written about our little suffering Boy at the Alms House, that he would take him into the Institution at Media for \$25 per year, for clothes. So I went Wednesday to see Judge Ross about it. Left the papers with his family, as he "was not in."

Yesterday, Thursday, took Aunt H. and wife to see our daughter Susan. Tacie & Frannie were there also to spend the day. Bertha Yocom could not come because of her Frannie not being well. I went down & took tea with them, but Frannie & Tacie had left.

February 21: Thursday.

Since last writing I have been busy as usual with various labors, practicing, collecting rents, seeing my clay digger, finding work for John & William, [the] man & boy, visiting & receiving visits, a visit to Bertha & Frannie & Mary in Philad., &c., and yesterday visited brother Charles Corson, who is fast declining with disease of lungs, Consumption I might say.

Last Saturday evening, Edward Foulke & wife came from Philad. and just at tea time George Corson, son of Cousin Marple Corson, came to see us, the first time he had ever been here. Then after tea, Follen & Jay & Susan all came. Jay & Susan left at 9 ½ P.M., the others remained until Monday morning at 7 ¼ o'clock & then went to Philad. We had a very pleasant time with them. George Corson is a very pleasant man. He is a Commercial Agent for firms in N. York & Philad.

After supper on Tuesday evening 19<sup>th</sup>, while reading, was attacked by palpitation. After a brief span on [the] Lounge went to bed and it at once went off after lying down.

**Editor's note:** On the next page in the diary, Corson pasted the two column article in the *Norristown Herald* written by him, titled *Circumstantial Evidence. THE INNKEEPER'S CONFESSION*. Also pasted on that page is an article about Edison's Phonograph.

February 22: Friday.

Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> Silver Bill has passed both houses. They have it by a vote large enough to override the "veto," so it is likely the Pres. will let it pass by without vetoing it.

February 26: Tuesday.

Since last writing, have been busy as usual. Have had a long tedious case of obstetrics, but being patient, it finally came off well (the first child of James & Hannah Hallowell his wife) Saturday evening 8 o'clock. At 11 A. M. on that day, while riding down to P.O. for a little recreation, I was taken with palpitation. But without naming it to any, I went into the next room where I laid down on the bed, and in a few minutes it went off.

I practiced all the forenoon actively so as to be able to go at one P.M. to Laurel Hill to see about the propriety of having the grave stones of Edward & Caroline better lettered. So ate dinner at 12 noon and walked out to order the horse, when I was taken with palpitation. It lasted only about 3 minutes. I went to Sp. Mill, took a Stone Cutter with me and we were soon at Laurel Hill. I came back in the 3 P.M. train & afterwards saw several patients.

March 1: Friday.

President has vetoed the Bill.

March 3: Sunday.

Since 26<sup>th</sup> have been occupying my time about as usual, busy from morning till night every day. On Friday evening March 1<sup>st</sup>, while at supper, Jay & Susan, Tacie & Mary, Harriet & ourselves were eating, I had a sudden attack of palpitation at 7 P.M. and it lasted till 2 A.M. on Saturday, 7 hours. I took ½ gr. morph. at midnight. I had been



taking 20 grs. Bromide Potassium and 12 drops Tinct. Digitalis 3 times a day for three weeks. I had been in [the] habit of having palpitation about every 2 weeks, and I was trying to avert it. It was just a month between the spells which lasted many hours, but during the last week or two, I had a number of short ones, two or 3 a day, lasting only one or two minutes during the last few days, prior to the last 7 hour spell. I do not know now whether to take larger doses or to stop taking. Before that seven hour spell came, I had felt weak and weary and had so many threatenings that I seemed to be in quite a nervous state. Since the 7 hour spell, that is away, and the pent-up-condition of the nervous system is relieved. It may be that the doses were too small to hold the periodical habit of the heart to palpitation in abeyance. I have taken no medicine since, will wait to see what will result,

Harriet has gone home. Follen is here today and Mary, so we are four in all, beside Ann, Helen & Wm..

March 15: Friday.

Attended the Commencement of the Medical Department of University of Pa, by invitation of the Dean, Dr. Tyson, who was some years ago a companion and friend of Joseph, Edward & Ellwood, and who is physician to Bertha and Frannie's family.

Joseph came here just before we got home from the Commencement on Friday 15<sup>th</sup>. He arrived in N. York in the morning & afterwards came on to stay till this evening. Frannie & D[aughter] also came up with me, and are now here. Follen also lives with us now.

**Editor's note:** A letter to Dr. Corson from S. Carey Ball, pasted on page 97 of the diary, reads in part, "Your letter (in addition to your certificate) aided very materially in the securing of the Pardon." He thanked Dr. Corson for his contribution towards his "liberation" from prison. Mr. Ball was residing at this time with his parents at 1508 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Philadelphia.

March 17: Sunday.

Palp[itations] [for] 4 hours on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

It is just two weeks [should be two days] since last writing, though I intended to write some every day. But there are so many things to take my time that I am prevented. I have practiced much since, have read a good deal and have written & rec'd. many letters. I have succeeded in getting the little boy, who has been shut up in the cells at the Poor-House so long, taken down to Media to the Home or Institution for feeble-minded children. I also stopped the Director of the Poor and two constables from taking a poor wife, the mother of three children, to the insane department of the Poor-House. They had her in the wagon half a mile from home when the Director mentioned to me that the constables were bringing her. I at once told him there must be some more proof than the affidavit of her husband that she is insane. We took her into the office of the Squire & found that there was nothing the matter [with] her. Her husband had become tired of her and took this means to get rid of her. I had him brought up and after giving him a good lecture and some advice, had the woman sent home, with a strong caution to the man to beware of ill-treating her.

March 20: Wednesday.

Rec'd. a letter from Joseph today stating that he was examined today in New York for promotion and passed the Board in less than half an hour not missing a single question. He will go home tonight very happy at being through with it. For two years he has been a close, hard student. At Plattsburgh where he has been stationed he has had little to do in a medical practice way and has therefore gone over & over again every branch of medical science, reading besides the standard text-books, the various home and foreign journals, and posting up in all that is new.

March 27: Wednesday.

Since last writing I have had only one palpitation of a quarter of an hour. Have felt very well and done much physical & mental labor, have written a great many letters & rec'd. many. I yesterday rec'd. a commission from Governor Hartranft, to be Trustee of the Hospital for the Insane at Harrisburgh, for the term of three (3) years from Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1878. The other commission was only for an unexpired term.

Frannie & her daughter Bertha Day and little Nanny Cresson are here, and we have quite a pleasant time with them.

I have been now & then gathering facts to use in making my Report to State Medical Society on the propriety of having a Female Medical Superintendent for the female department of every Hospital for the Insane in this State that is under state control.

I paste here a letter from Senator Horatio Gates Jones, who seems to be really very thankful for my letter approving his conduct.<sup>ii</sup>

March 30: Saturday.

I was practicing, was at Geo. Knous' at 8 A.M., [was] taken with palpitation, came home, took ½ gr. Morph. [It] went off at 11 A.M. It has been just a month since I had a spell, save for a few minutes one day.

April 3: Wednesday.

Since last writing, Samuel P. Abraham, the husband of Ann Evans, daughter of Cousin John Evans, from a very depressed state of mind brought on by the great fall in Penna. R.R. stock, of which he was a large holder, committed suicide by cutting his throat. We attended his funeral at Norristown on Monday last, but did not go to the Valley Baptist Church where he was buried.

Today I was again attacked by palpitation. I was visiting patients at 8 A.M. and had to continue it about an hour, then got home & took ½ gr. morph. and went to bed. At 4 ½ P.M. it was still going on, got up and went to see some patients. [It] went off at 5 ½, before I got home.

I have had a heavy correspondence lately to get facts to introduce into my report to State [Medical] Society.

**Editor's note:** Pasted on the next two pages in the diary are three newspaper clippings, articles titled *VIEWS OF FRIENDS* and *THE BELIEF OF FRIENDS* and a poem by Dr. Weir Mitchell, *A QUAKER GRAVEYARD*. Also pasted are a letter from David Newport of Willow Grove, and a notification of a quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the

Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital to be held in Harrisburg on April 11, 1878 at 11 A.M. Along the left side of diary page 100, Dr. Corson writes,

“‘Views of Friends’ & ‘Belief of Friends’ were written by me as an offset to articles written for the ‘North Wales Record,’ by some Orthodox, who gave the belief of Friends as being the bluest kind of churchism. H.C.”

“Afterwards submitted my articles to David Newport, a minister with Friends and he confirmed my views as being correct according to Friends doctrine. See his letter on opposite page.”

April 21: Sunday.

Evening. Joseph & wife & child, W. Cresson & Tacie & 3 children, James Yocom & three children & Bertha, all here. They have had a good time, but are now all away but Joseph & family.

Defalcations, failures, &c., still the order of the day. There have been some heavy failures the past week.

April 23: Tuesday.

Have been very busy all day getting my small judgments revised, practicing, &c. Rec'd. a letter from Miss Dr. Mary Stinson, from Paris in relation to women physicians. Women have not in any country in Europe so great privileges in relation to the study of medicine as in this country. I had written to her for facts in relation to the positions occupied by medical women, which I might incorporate in my “Report to State Society,” but I find it better not to refer to the status of women in Europe.

May 1: Wednesday.

Death and burial [of] Judge Moore of May's Landing, N.J.

Yesterday I went to Philad. to see Doctor Charles Thomas and obtain some statistics about women doctors, their numbers, &c. I dined with the family at 6 P.M., then read my “Report” to State Society to him, and interchanged views on the subject. At 9 ½ P.M. left for Frannie's. When I arrived there, they were absent on a call at Bertha's and on Thomas Adamson & wife, who are to leave for Rio Janeiro [sic], on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May. He is Am. Consul there. After staying the night at Frannie's, I started at a few minutes after 7 ½ to the Vine St. Wharf. At the corner of Vine & 4<sup>th</sup>, Follen stepped from the Cars and joined me. In a few minutes we were on the steam-boat on our way to Camden, and at 8 A.M. left for May's Landing in Atlantic Co., the residence of Judge Moore. I had been expecting to go to see him for some weeks, but, not knowing he was so sick, did not get down, till I was surprised to hear of his death. We were old friends. I attended Mrs. Moore with all her children. Now they are all married, and I met there a grand-daughter 22 years old.

Judge Moore suffered greatly for many months, not severe pain, but from a great frequency of [portion of page torn off] and from loss of appetite, &c. We met his physicians there. The family was greatly pleased that we came down. There was quite a large assembly of nice looking people there. He was buried about 1 ½ miles from the village in a large desolate looking yard with no habitation in sight. After dinner, at 3:45 we left for home. On our way we made the acquaintance of Judge Tatem, a very pleasant gentleman, with whom we conversed until we reached Camden. At 7 ½ P.M.

we were again home, all sound. Judge Moore, when I first made his acquaintance, was a gawkey [sic], awkward boy of about 20 years, who came to attend a small store erected by James Wells on the strip of land between the canal & Schuylkill above the old rolling mill of James Wood. Soon he married, was elected Magistrate, went into business in a large store in the town, failed, became a great Temperance man, was engaged by Stephen Colwell to oversee & manage his large estate in Atlantic Co., N.J., some 80,000 acres of land, furnaces, &c., &c. He managed this business so well, he was so faithful & so active that attention was called to him, and he was sent 4 years (two terms) to Congress and afterwards 3 years as Senator to the Legislature of N. Jersey. In both of which situations he performed his duties faithfully and efficiently. He owned much property in land, houses & ships. His three children, two sons & one daughter, all married and settled comfortably in the same village, May's Landing. His wife still survives him. He was a good man and as the phrase goes "successful." It was a pleasure to him to be doing something, and he was always seeking some opportunity to improve his neighborhood. Wherever he resided he was a leading man.

May 5: Sunday.

Death of brother Charles Corson today at one P.M.

He was born January 22, 1801. Died May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1878. He lived for 55 years on a beautiful farm on the junction of the Skippack and Perkiomen Creeks in Lower Providence Township, Montgomery County. Was a very healthy man during most of his life. A sad loss of his fine property by endorsing for his son Richard, about 1857, gave him great trouble for several years and impelled him to exertions too great for him at his then advanced age, but he cont'd. to cultivate his farm to the last; and for the several latter years of his life seemed to be satisfied that his loss was not worth caring for. His son Lawrence, and his daughter Mary, took the farm at a very heavy price, so that creditors would not lose, and farmed it with so much good management that they were all very comfortable, and what debt remained on it, was due to the brothers and brothers-in-law. Charles was a remarkable man., one of the most efficient and rapid workers I have ever known., quick of perception, fond of reading, humane to a great degree, an antislavery man, when it was odious to be so; a strong temperance man, a lover of Right, but a condemner of priestly hypocrisy. His wife has been dead more than 10 years. The living children are Richard (married to Louisa Williams and who has two children); Adelaide, (married to Albert Crawford and who has four children); John, married to Freedly [sic]<sup>iii</sup>; Laurence; William; Susan, married to Felix Highley; Mary, not married, nor is Laurence.

May 8: Wednesday.

During the last week or more I have, at odd times, been writing a "Report on the propriety of having Female Medical Superintendents for the female departments of every hospital for the insane under control of the State,

I about finished it last evening and hope to be able to go to Pittsburgh on May 27<sup>th</sup> to read it before the Society. It is a conception of my own to have this change in the management of insane females, and the male superintendents will of course be ready to oppose it, but this will not deter me.

May 9: Thursday.

We attended the funeral today. There had been no special invitations and but little notice in the newspapers, but there were a goodly number of very respectable people there. He was buried at Montgomery Cemetery.

May 10: Friday.

Robt. R. Corson & wife, Mrs. Emily Bacon and Anna Bacon, were here to dinner & tea, a visit to Joseph & wife as the former is to leave here for Plattsburgh on Tuesday next. They left for home at 8 P.M.

May 19: Sunday.

One hundred years ago this day, there was being enacted in this neighborhood a series of movements on which seemed to hang the weal and woe of our Country. Addresses were made at the house of Rev'd. Rodenbough and Rev'd. Halsey, and at the grave they performed the usual ceremonies.

Of the eight brothers & sisters there are now left only the eldest, Alan over 90 years [old], the youngest, William in his 72d, and myself in my 74<sup>th</sup> year.

In the "Times," a weekly paper published by Col. Alexander McClure of Philad. there appeared yesterday an account of the movements of the British and American Armies at Plymouth Meeting and Barren Hill, at this time one hundred years ago, prepared by Howard M. Jenkins, son of Alger, now Jenkins, grandson of Charles F. Jenkins and great grandson of Edward Jenkins, all of whom were in succession residents of the old Jenkins House at Gwynedd Meeting, where the father Howard still resides. As I have known them all and know Howard to be a reliable excellent man, and know that he has taken great pains to get reliable information, I will paste the article here. It may possibly interest some one a hundred years to come. Wife is writing on the window close to me, I at the desk. Follen and Ada, Joseph's wife, & Mary the little daughter 2 ½ years old, have gone to Jawood [sic] Lukens' to see our daughter Susan, wife of Jawood. Mary, our daughter, has gone with little Frannie Yocom to Sandy-Hill to leave Franny there with her aunts. Written at 4 ½ P.M.

Yesterday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, self & wife & Ada (Joseph's wife) went to the Laurel Hill Cemetery to see the graves of our children, from there through the "East Park" to the "Zoological Garden," in the "West Park," and from there at 5 P.M. started for home. In our ride along the river road & through the West Park, we met hundreds of carriages filled with people who had gone up to see the Regatta, from the "Falls" of the Schuylkill to Fair-Mount-Dam. Just as we came on the river road above the Centennial buildings, we came to an open place on the side of the river (Schuylkill) and just then the four racing boats were in full view, two steamboats loaded with the friends of the contestants following in the rear. It was quite a beautiful sight. We came up the whole length of the Wissahickon Park on our way home, and arrived at 7 ½ P.[M.], tired enough, as we had started just after noon; but we had a good double team and easy carriage and a good careful driver, our man, John Hance.

Joseph left here last Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup>, to return to Plattsburgh, N. York, to dispose of his goods and receive "orders." We have heard from him since. He has been ordered to Arizona. He will be the chief of the Medical Department in that place, so hopes to get a

pretty fair place. Ada will go to her father's at the same time to stay part of the Summer. They expect to meet in Albany next Thursday or Friday.

May 23: Thursday.

Today Joseph came home at noon bringing with him the nurse for the child, or rather he brought "the girl," who is to live with them, has been with them for more than a year. Ada has been getting everything ready to go to Ft. Bridger as soon as he returns. The girls, Frannie, Tacie, Bertha, Susan & Mary, as well as their mother, have all been doing their part.

May 25: Saturday.

Today at 3:35, Joseph was to go home, or rather to Fort Bridger & then after a few days, to San Francisco [sic], and from there to Prescott, Arizona. I took him to the train at Sp. Mill, and Mary went with them to the Cars. At 3:48 they left and I came home. Joseph seemed in good spirits, and Ada was on her way home, so they hoped to get along comfortably. We feel lonely enough now, for all the children have been coming & going for the past three weeks very frequently.

Little Mary is more than two years old and a very smart interesting child. I suppose I shall never see her again, and yet I may. I have been unusually free from palpitation for the past two months. On [the] 18<sup>th</sup> had it for 5 hours, from 10 P.[M.] to 3 A.[M.].

May 26: Sunday.

I have finished my Report to State Soc. and last Thursday went to Philad. and read it to Dr. Nebinger, and he agreed to sign it. I sent it by Follen yesterday & Nebinger came to his office & signed it. Dr. Sibbett, the other member of the Committee, will signed it at Pittsburgh when we meet next Wednesday. It fills twenty closely written pages of fools cap. I expect to leave for Pittsburgh on Tuesday to the State Medical Society [meeting].

May 31: Friday.

Left Philad. in the Sleeping Car on P. R. Road at 9:06 P.M. in company with Drs. Pepper, Wood, Mills, J. B. Roberts, Agnew (Profs.), Kerlin of Media, and others. Was at Monongahela Hotel in Pittsburgh Wednesday morning at 9. At 3, meeting commenced, cont'd. till 6 P.[M.]. At 8 recommenced to hear President Agnew's address. I did not go, but went to the Seventh Avenue Hotel to see Dr. Washington L. Atlee. Found him so changed that I scarcely recognized him. Is said to have Cancer of the Spleen. Poor Fellow!! He was so strong, so active, so full of life one year ago and now so weak, emaciated, sad! We talked, reviewed things which we had done together, &c., for about 10 or 15 minutes, then through fear that I might worry him, I left. At 10 P.M. I met a party in Dr. Pepper's room, a few doors from mine, and he, Halberstadt & myself were engaged until midnight trying to settle a difficulty between Dauphin Co. Med. Soc. and some of its members.

Attended the meetings next day, and also settled the difficulty left unfinished last night. Read my Report at 5 P.M. At 8 P.M. left Pittsburgh for home, where I arrived next morning at 9 ½ A.M. Had a pleasant time. Succeeded in all that I wanted, viz. to

have my report accepted, and a committee appointed to memorialize the Legislature for laws needed to carry out my object, the having Female Medical Superintendents.

June 9: Sunday.

Since coming home I have had a bad cold and two or three brief palpitations, indeed two of several hours each, but on the whole have been pretty well, and doing a good deal of business.

Joseph heard from. They arrived safely at Ft. Bridger in due time. [They] had a pleasant time, met many pleasant friends, got along free, &c. The night after they stepped out at Carter Station to ride over to Ft. Bridger with Judge Carter & his family, who were at the Station waiting for them. The train was entered by masked robbers, and the passengers [were] robbed. Last Monday, June 3d, Joseph left for San Francisco, since which we have not heard from him.

It is a fearful journey from Plattsburgh, N.Y., to Prescott, Arizona. The Government allows him forty one hundred miles of mileage. It is a fearful change from the cold of Canada to the heat of Arizona, but we hope he will stand it.

June 15: Saturday.

Had a letter yesterday from Joseph, from San Francisco. After leaving Ft. Bridger, and when about to get his tickets at Ogden, a gentleman approached him, introduced himself as an officer of the Army and told him his tickets were ready for his whole family at half price. He says every where, when he met any Army Officials, all seemed to know his destination and purpose. He, after a brief stay in S. Francisco, will go by rail to Ft. Yuma on the Gila River. Our next letter will be from Ft. Prescott, Arizona, I suppose. We also had letters from Ada, all well. The "Post" at Ft. Bridger, having been done away, the place is very lonely.

June 16: Sunday.

This day one week since I had a palpitation which lasted me about six hours, and on Saturday, last night, I had it for 12 hours, but I feel pretty well today and have been reading all day, only paying one visit to Hon. Jno. Wood's son.

June 17: Monday.

I was engaged all the forenoon in practice and after dinner was writing an account of our family for Moses Auge, when I was attacked by palpitation. I have been writing ever since. When it will go off, I cannot say. It is a very uncomfortable feeling, but still I can go about, and when my mind is occupied, I sometimes feel quite better.

June 18: Tuesday.

My palpitation cont'd. strongly until 9 ½ P.[M.] yesterday, when I took ½ gr. Sulph. Morph., and in half an hour, when I began to feel it well, I got relief, but I did not sleep a particle that I could discern until daylight. I have not been out much today, partly because I wanted rest, and partly because it was quite rainy, and I had nothing preferring to do. I am feeling pretty well, indeed I think scarcely a person can be found who is in better health than I am, save these attacks of palpitations.

My nephew Saml. M. Corson was an applicant for the situation of principal in the Conshohocken High School, and I felt pretty certain he would get it, as there was no applicant who had an equal ability. But he did not get it; four of the Directors are of the lower strata in society and they went against the upper class who wanted Saml.

July 11: Thursday.

It appears that I have not written in the book since June 18<sup>th</sup>. Well, I have done a good deal since, and there has been much done in the neighborhood. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of June there was a Centennial Anniversary of the withdrawal of Genl. Washington's Army from the encampment at Valley Forge, where they had been all winter, to follow the British Army through New Jersey. I did not go to Valley Forge, but Follen did, and he says there were more than 30,000 people there; there were fine speeches by Col. Bean & Henry Armitt Brown.

The speech of Brown is a splendid history of those eventful times, and I have cut a poor copy from the Herald and Free Press of Norristown. Today I was to have been at Harrisburgh hospital with Trustees, but it did not suit me to go. We heard from Joseph by letter yesterday. He is still at Fort Whipple in Arizona.

I have been having a great deal of correspondence with Alienists in Boston, New York and other places. Have been reading a good deal on Nervous Diseases and on Insanity, and [have been] working in my practice daily.

Yesterday at 6 ½, just after supper, I was reading on the Piazza when I was taken with palpitation. It cont'd. until 4 A.M. this morning, keeping me awake all night, but I took ½ gr. morph. at bed-time. I was pretty comfortable. Had to ride a good deal today, and just before noon was attacked again a mile from home. It lasted about an hour. Have slept four hours today.

July 18: Thursday.

Palpitation [for] 7 hours. Was at home at 6 P.M. when it occurred, but went after supper to see two families, said nothing about it till 10, then told wife. At one in the night it went off.

July 22: Monday.

For more than a week we have had one of the hottest spells of weather we have had for years, Therm. from 95° to 100° daily and but little lower at night. Yesterday, Sunday, in the evening there came a slight change, and this morning it is decided. Therm. 75°.

July 23: Tuesday.

Therm. 63° half hour after sunrise; cool sharp wind. Frannie & her child, and Bertha's children are here and Bertha expects to come today, all to stay a month or so. It makes a big family but still we like to see them enjoy themselves. It is amusing to see them with their hands and mouths full of apples and running around and following each other in the little wagon. I have some severe cases of Scarlet Fever; am treating them with ice & cold water. [They are] doing well, I think; have a number of other patients.



July 28: Sunday.

6 P.M. Had a great many patients for several days and was out last night till one this morning. Started early this morning and cont'd. visiting patients till at 9 ½. As I was riding along, well as ever I was, I was attacked by palpitation. I had a few patients more to visit, so kept on till 11 A.M., then got home and went to bed. It cont'd. beating away for 4 hours from time of beginning. [I] then took ½ gr. Morph. and in [a] half hour it stopped. I think the morph. has a great effect in shortening it.

Last week & week before, I had four cases of S[carlet] Fever in one family. Treated them by cold sponging over the body, ice to the throat, or glands rather, [and] regulated the application by the clinical thermometer. All went through it splendidly although they [were] new severe cases.

My gd. son Thomas C. Yocom came with me from Tacie's in the evening. I found he was not well, but not apparently much amiss. After an early going to bed, he was awakened by vomiting, complained of his throat, as it afterwards appeared, he had done through the day. He became very feverish after midnight, and slept heavily. In the morning I found him with a pulse of 136, respirations 40, Temp. in axilla 106, feet and hands quite cool, head very hot, heavy Diph. patches on the tonsils, especially on the left one. I covered his hands and feet so as to warm them, then sponged the body with cold water, poured it freely on the head, applied ice to the throat over the tonsils, repeated the sponging frequently, applied a large cloth of several folds of muslin over the whole abdomen & front of chest as high as the nipples. Thus I went on hour after hour until the therm. showed 103, then I did it more lightly, and so I went on.; [the] next day [the temp. was down] to 102, the next [to] 101, &c. In three days he was entirely out of danger and the patches [were] gone.

When Thomas fell sick, Daughter Frannie went to Philad. with her child and Bertha's two children, who were here, we sent to their Aunt Yocom, so we have only Bertha & Thomas here.

August 2: Friday.

Frannie & ch[ild] returned, so Bertha & Frannie & all their children are here.

August 3: Saturday.

Practiced much till noon. At 2 P.M. was at Norristown to visit the prisoners in the jail. Mr. Fry and Dr. Knipe, the other visitors, were not there when I arrived, and so I commenced my work alone. When nearly half through, they arrived and we finished at 5 P.M. Every door was opened in turn. I then entered and saluting the prisoners kindly ( I say prisoners for there were generally two in a cell), said to those whom I had never seen before, that we came to see them as men appointed to see that they were properly treated and had their proper food., and if they had any requests or complaints to make, now is the time to make them. Without a single exception, they had no complaint to make. Nor do I think this was through fear, for it was so cheerfully & freely made. Two quite young fellows thought that the soup was a "little thin." There were two or three young boys there; improperly there too, [about] which we must see Judge Ross about. I should have made out our Report this afternoon, but have from a slight circumstance that occurred this morning, been indisposed to do so. Will write it in a day or two perhaps.

There was one little boy put there by a drunken father, on charges of theft. What did he steal? "Why, his father had turned him out, drove him off, and having no place to go to, he returned & went into the house and got something to eat." How old is he? Eight years!! Good Heavens!! Is it possible that a Justice of the Peace (?) could be found to commit such a child to jail on such a charge. I must see to have him out.

August 23: Friday.

Day before yesterday, Henry Armitt Brown of Philad., one of the most accomplished scholars & orators died. He was only 32 years of age, but was the acknowledged orator of the day.

I have been doing a good deal of practice for some weeks, but just now not so much. Have had bad cases of Scarlet Fever & Diphtheria, but they have all recovered under the cold treatment. Yesterday I was to see Moses Auge, by req., to hear his history of my family, the old & present generation of Corsons. He has spoken well of us. He had used the following expression in relation to my father: "That Joseph Corson was, as was once said of Lyman Beecher, the progenitor of more Grains than any other man" in Montg'y County. I objected to this, as being likely to call forth ill-natured remarks, and so he changed it.

September 1: Sunday.

8 A.M. I was called early, 5 ½ o'clock, to see Wm. Staley Sen'r., a man of 70, [who] on rising became giddy & fell to the floor [which] frightened the wife & she sent for me. [He was] well when I got there. If people would take time to use a little common sense, they could save themselves trouble and expense.

The reports from New Orleans, Memphis, Vicksburgh, Grenada, &c., for the last week have shown a fearful loss of life and a fleeing from home of the people of those cities that has not been known before for many years, and it is not abating.

For several years, D. O. Hitner and Wm. Lukens, one of his men, have been Delegates to that County Convention. Hitner had so many men dependent on his work that he could easily have the election, in his party, his own way. They became so arrogant that a few persons, Follen & George Corson & Jesse Hall and others concluded to run them out, and last night they deputed Lukens from being a Delegate. Hitner was displaced from the County Committee and Follen put in his place. George Corson became Delegate instead of Lukens. The County Convention to select candidates will be held tomorrow at Norristown. I am glad that I did not enter into political life. It is sad though that all intelligent good men do not take more interest, active interest, in the preparatory meetings, so that good delegates may be sent and good candidates be put forward. The grog-shop people have managed it heretofore.

Last Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock while writing, I was taken with palpitation. I laid down a while then got up and kept up till bed-time nearly all the time. Took ½ gr. Morph. about 2 hours after the attack. Did not sleep much. Two hours before it went off, I took 20 drops of Tinct. Digitalis and in 1 ½ [hours], 16 drops more. Whether that did good or not, I do not know. I have often thought that it will be likely not to go off at all on some occasion here after. I do not suffer greatly while it is on., but to a constant sense of slight oppression, there is added the concussion of my whole body by the action

of the heart, an almost inability to go up stairs without great fatigue in my limbs and increased pulsation over all my frame.

I sent a long letter to Joseph yesterday. It is now just a week since my last attack of palpitation began.

September 2: Monday.

Practiced a great deal this forenoon. Went to the Republican Convention as soon as dinner was over. There was quite a great struggle among aspirants. There were a few good men nominated, and some not good at all. But we need not vote for the poor ones. I certainly shall not. It was very warm, up to the nineties at 2 P.M. At the meeting Saturday night, Follen was elected County-Committee-man, in place of D. O. Hitner, very unexpectedly to the latter, who has had the "whole say" in the matter for many years.

September 28: Saturday.

Last night at 7 o'clock I was taken with palpitation, and it cont'd. till 5 this A.M., just 10 hours. It suited very well that it did not occur till I had gone through my days work and ceased before the duties of today were pressing me.

The Ambler Fair has been going on all this week, and on Thursday there were many thousands there, but as it is only a race course, I stay away from principle. Not one of our family has gone. I am doing a good deal of practice every day. There has been a number of cases of illegitimacy with quite young persons in the various churches announced lately, and one effort on the part of one of the men accused to destroy the girl. It shows a low state of morals in our church members.

Wife's birthday was on this [empty space], and she got a good many presents.

October 3: Thursday.

Went with my niece Mary Roberts from Bridgeport in the train to Phenixville [Phoenixville], in the 8:20 A.M. train. At Phenixville, with Sarah Pennypacker, went to Chester Spring Station, spent an hour with Grace Ann Lewis, one of the most, if not positively the most, enlightened, scientific woman in the State; then took a carriage, sent by Mrs. Moore, Supt. of the State School for the children of deceased soldiers, to the school half a mile away. We were kindly entertained there, had dinner with scholars, examined the school and the whole buildings, and at 1 P.M. took the train from Phenixville. There I visited the family of my former pupil Dr. Oberholtzer and spent two or three hours pleasantly. At 5 P.M., met Mary (who had spent the day at Elyjah Pennypacker's) at the Station and came rapidly down in the Express to Norristown; reached home at 6 ½ P.M., paid one visit after supper. Wife left at 10 A.M. for Philad. to visit Bertha & Frannie.

October 7: Monday.

Diphtheria has been prevailing in the neighborhood for several weeks occasionally, or in limited degree. There have been two very severe cases in one family, Mrs. Wolf's two daughters, 11 & 13. One was very ill just at the time I saw her and died next day. The other I saw early but it died in 3 days. They were fearful cases and the

ice not well tried because there were no persons there to help the mother apply it, or keep it applied.

We have had occasional, or I may say weekly, letters from Joseph, who is at Fort Whipple at Prescott, Arizona. He likes the place and would be real happy there, if his wife and little Mary were there. Ada is almost wild to go, before the winter sets in, but Joseph is not yet certain that he will not go to Fort Yuma; and at it will be greatly easier for them to come to him there, he is waiting to get his order for change.

October 8: Tuesday.

My 74<sup>th</sup> birthday. I was up before sunrise, went to Conshohocken with son, Follen, so that he could go in the 7 ½ train. There I found a message to come to John Fulmer's at the "Gulph" 2 miles over the Schuylkill. Went there and saw boy's injured shoulder; returned & saw Solomon Shirk's son, D. Lewis' dgt. with Diphtheria, two other families in Gilberts homes, four children sick with light Diphtheria. Then down through Barren Hill, seeing Geo. Foulke's child, Geo. Frank, with injured hand, Wm. Staley & wife, on to John Rex's at 9 mile stone, to see mother-in-law; after dinner, [went] to John Wolf's at 2 o'clock & again at 6 to see a fearful case of Diphtheria; then to Mrs. Stout's, half a mile below the Broad Axe Tavern on the old "Sheaf Farm." Then home to supper. After supper went in haste to John Horn's half a mile below Brookfield (Judge Jones old place) in Lower Merion to consult with Dr. Vanartzdalen in the case of the son of Mr. Horn; [was] home by 10 P.M. Follen went with me to Mr. Horn's. I rode at least 33 miles, saw 15 patients, one of them twice, and held one consultation, pretty good for a man 74 years of age. H. Corson.

October 14: Monday.

Edward's birthday. He would have been 44 had he lived until today. He was the best kind of a youth, would have been high up in the Navy by this time, or rather he would not have been in it at all, for he intended to resign at the end of the War. How many thousands were lost in that fearful war.

I am doing a great deal of practice now, and also having the men digging a cellar on my big lot on Marshall St., Norristown.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> was at Harrisburgh to a meeting of the Trustees of [the] Hospital for Insane. I left home at 3 ½ P.M., took the train at Bridgeport at 4:41 P.[M.], arrived at Harrisburg at 8:30. The five local Trustees came to my room at the La Pierre House at 9, and we had a consultation as to what we would do next day. Next day, 10<sup>th</sup>, the Local Com. Reported some pretty sad matters. One woman had in the night attempted to escape through the transom over, or rather in the door of her room, [and] was found dead and hanging by her neck in the morning. One of the attendants had an abortion [and] is now ill there. Another patient left the Institution a year ago and soon after had a child. The Supt. is much to blame. We will try to bring him to order. [I] reached Norristown at 8 ½ where Follen was waiting to take me four miles away to see Henry Schlater, very ill, got home at 10 P.M.

November 6: Wednesday.

Yesterday, after three weeks and three days of exemption from palpitation, I was

attacked at noon, and it cont'd. 10 hours, going off without taking any medicine. I had been very well, was strong, and active and had done a great deal of practice.

Today I attended our County Medical [Society] meeting at Norristown. Had a lively discussion on Typhoid Fever.

November 9: Saturday.

Friday Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> I was taken with palpitation at 3 P.M., while dressing an injured hand in the office. It cont'd. until today at 2 P.[M.] = 23 hours. It was a pretty hard attack. I took dinner and morph. last night, and though I felt very bad today, I had to go several times to see patients.

We have heard from Joseph and have written to him every week. His last letter informed us that his wife and child had arrived at Fort Yuma, where he is now stationed, so they are all together again. He was successful in making many friends in Ft. Whipple and in Prescott. His letters while at Prescott, and of his journey there and back from there to Fort Yuma, 300 miles across the desert are exceedingly interesting. Genl. Sherman and staff came across the country from Santa Fé, a trip of 20 days across those deserts, mountains and arid plains, and then from there to Yuma. Then Genl. Fremont, his wife and children, came from Yuma to Prescott in the same ambulance. He had a very pleasant time with them for a few days, and then he alone left in the same fine ambulance drawn by six fine mules, and accompanied by another ambulance, with his goods, also drawn by six mules, for Ft. Yuma. It is an almost barren waste for 300 miles, no water but what at long stages has been procured by digging wells. They had to carry water for their mules & themselves; one stretch between wells was 45 miles in sand. While at Fort Whipple, near Prescott, his outside practice for the four months, yielded him 385 Dollars, which added to his salary of \$216 2/3 per mo., nets him 1251 Dols. for 4 mo.

The Election in Pa. took place last Tuesday, and resulted in a great victory for the Republicans, so it did too in New York State and in several others. It has been a time of great political excitement. The Republicans, pleading earnestly for Gold as the legal standard, while the Democrats, thinking it would please the masses, who have had but little work for three years, advocated the Bank Note currency. Then there were other parties, the Greenbackers, Naturals, Labor Party, &c.

December 13: Friday.

Since my last writing, I have had palpitations several times on [the] 29<sup>th</sup>, from 8 P.[M.] till 8 A.M. [on the] 30<sup>th</sup>., but on the whole have had most excellent health, and have done a great deal of practice.

We have had letters every week from Joseph & wife. They have themselves well fixed in their house at Ft. Yuma. His letter of today states that the max. Temp. there now is 78°, minimum 47°.

He is practicing a little there; the fees are so large that a very little makes him \$100 per mo.

Frannie & child are here now, also Bertha's two children, Thomas & Bertha. Bertha, our dgt. has now 5 children, 3 daughters and two sons, the youngest about 3 weeks old.

Rec'd. a long letter this morning from Helen Wood, now Mrs. Capt'n. Mauck, from Fort Elliot. It was her child, who, some years ago, I rescued from death by starvation when they were at Fort Sill, Texas.

This week I have also had other letters from Drs. Traill Green, Sibbett, Benjn. Lee and other members of our Committee to memorialize the Legislature for a law to enable women to be Supt's. of Hospitals for the Insane, also a beautiful one from Grace Anna Lewis on that subject.

December 15: Sunday.

Practiced a little in the morning. Richard Day and Frannie are here. Just before Dinner, while reading, I was taken with palpitation, which cont'd. till 2 ½ P.M. As soon as I was attacked, I took 25 drops of Tinct. Digitalis, then ate a light dinner and went to bed; got up at 2 ½ feeling badly, came downstairs, but had to return to hunt my spectacles; it wearied me greatly to go up, and I threw myself down on a chair to rest a moment, when it instantly went off. It is a strange affection.

## 1879

January 1: Wednesday.

Since last writing, I have been quite busy, sending my Report on the propriety of having Female Physicians as Superintendents to Hospitals for the insane females under Control of the State. I had two hundred copies and have sent about 180 away. It will be necessary for me to get up "a Bill" to present to the Legislature with Our Memorial, asking that the legislation needed to carry our wishes into effect [and] be enacted.

In 1877 I first moved in this matter offering a preamble and resolution on the subject; there was then a Committee appointed by the Society (State Medical) of which I was made Chairman, to report on the subject. In 1878 we made our report, written by me, which has been presented in the "Transactions," and it is that which I am sending to the various persons. I have sent one to every Senator, and one to a good many Representatives, and to various other persons, Judges, Lawyers & women philanthropists. The two hundred copies cost me only \$4.50, by getting them at the time the type of the transactions "were still up." Now the same firm asks me \$17.00 for two hundred. I ought to have them but dislike to spend the money. I rec'd. three letters from Ladies yesterday asking for several copies each. I am very sorry I did not get more copies at once.

January 4: Saturday.

I have been to see Wm. B. Roberts, our new Republican Representative, and he is pleased with my report and will champion the "Bill" if one should be introduced this winter. Hon. Horatio Gates Jones, a Philad. Senator, has also agreed to stand by it in the Senate. Theodore Bean, Esq. of Norristown is desirous to draw the Bill. Two days since I met Mahlon H. Dickinson, Pres., Board of Public Charities at the office, 1222 Chestnut St., by appointment. He is favorable and will use his influence for the Bill before individual members at Harrisburgh. After an hour with him, I met Dr. Charles H. Thomas, by appointment, and we had an hour's talk and amusement, at his house, 1807 Chestnut. Then met Dr. Andrew Nebinger, by appointment, and read him my memorial

to the Legislature, which he was, as a member of the Committee, pleased to sign. He lives far down 2d St. It was then 4 ½ P.M. (I did not leave home till 11 A.M.). I then took the cars and was soon at Frannie's in 4<sup>th</sup> St. near Noble. At 6 P.[M.] with Follen took the cars at 9<sup>th</sup> & Green and was home by 7. It was a satisfactory trip. All were earnest in their desire to aid me.

The weather is intensely cold now, since Thursday evening. At zero, Friday morning, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10 above zero this morning (the 4<sup>th</sup>) and the wind a constant gale, piercing as any I have ever felt.

I have sent two papers to the "Medical & Surgical Reporter" within a couple or three weeks. Hope to write another this evening. While I write, little Bertha Yocom, our granddaughter, who says she is six years old, is singing and amusing herself close by my side. I wrote a will for Mr. Saml. Grubb last evening and had it signed & witnessed today.

January 12: Sunday.

Last week was a very busy one with me. Besides practicing, I wrote two papers for the "Medical and Surgical Reporter" of Philad. and on Wednesday attended the meeting of the Montgomery Co. Med. Soc. at Norristown, and I got a preamble and resolution passed requesting our Senator & Representatives to vote for the enactment of Laws to provide for the appointment of a female physician to be Superintendent to Hospitals for females. Then after some hurried business and visits to two friends, took the cars at Bridgeport at 4:41 P.M. and reached Reading at 6:30, where as usual I met Dr. Green of Easton, and we had a pleasant ride to Harrisburgh where we arrived at 8:30 P.[M.]. About 10 miles below Harrisburgh, Professor Lowe, once the great balloonist but for many years engaged in scientific experiments to make gas for lighting cities cheaply, came to me and introduced himself. I had only met him once before. I introduced him to Professor Green, and we had a pleasant talk the rest of the trip. We all went to the Lochiel where they had fine warm rooms prepared for us. I had written for mine. After supper, the local Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Hospital came to my room and we had a conference in relation to my proposed reform, and some abuses which they had discovered as they thought. After they left, Dr. Green, Mr. Guilbert [sic], Prof. Lowe & myself went (then 10 ½ P.) to see Prof. Lowe's Gas works. It was raining & snowing & freezing. We were compelled to take the middle of the street. He showed us the whole operation. It is a most complete operation, and Mr. Gilbert, who had been greatly prejudiced against it, was convinced that it would drive the old Gas Companies out of use. We got back to the Hotel at 11 ½ P.[M.], and I was soon in bed, but [was] so tired that I could not get to sleep for an hour, or more. The next morning, I was up & dressed & had had breakfast by 8 ½, and at nine we were at the Hospital, the carriage having been sent for us early. Visiting the wards and going through the business of the Board kept us clearly engaged until the time for leaving the place, at 3:30, to reach the train at 3:53 P.[M.].

Just before the close of the meeting, I introduced a preamble in relation to our action in the State Medical Society in relation to having female Superintendents, and a resolution of the Board desiring the Senators & Rep's to enact laws to carry into effect the proposed object. Of nine Trustees, all earnestly voted for it except the President, Dr. John Atlee, who made a speech against it. Dr. Green, Mr. Lamberton & myself all

advocating for it. It was a pretty bold venture in me, but succeeded admirably. In coming home, I came in contact in the Cars with two Senators & two Reps. and introduced the subject of our "Bill;" they all agreed to support it.

So I think I have done well; all the Memorial Committee signed my memorial, save one. The President of the Board of Public Charities promised me to use his influence for it. The Medical Society of our Co. sends its resolution, & above all, the Trustees of our Hospital demand the change. I reached home at 9 P.M. and found them all well. I was fearfully tired, so much were we engaged at the hospital, and on the trip to Reading with Dr. Green, we conversed steadily for two hours, then from Reading home, talked with the Senators & Reps. It waries [wearies] one to talk so much.

January 15: Wednesday.

Since my return, I have been practicing, studying, &c. Tuesday evening, 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6 o'clock, having but half hour before returned home after a pretty active day's riding about in the practice, &c., and while I was talking with Dr. Jonathan J. Comfort who had come to see me about a place as an official in one of the two hospitals now building at Warren, and here in our County, I was struck, but I gave no sign to him or the family until he left here, after 9 P.M. I was then fearfully tired and somewhat exhausted and took 30 drops Tinct. Digitalis and went to bed, but could not sleep much and at midnight took ½ gr. moph. It went off in half an hour or a little more.

January 20: Monday.

We have been pretty busy this cold weather. It is very cold, and we have fine sleighing; and [I] have written and rec'd. hosts of letters on the subject of my proposal to have Female Superintendents for hospitals for female. We are, in family, mother (wife), Mary, Follen, myself and little Bertha Yocom, who is six years old and keeps us all happy with her pleasant good nature and smart ways. Then we have Ann, our woman who has been with us for more than 40 years, Maggie, a new girl, John Hance, the farmer, though he does not board with us, and Wm. Cain, a boy of 14 to whom I pay 4 Dols. per month. They are excellent servants and cost me \$40 per month besides board for three of them.

January 24: Friday.

Evening. Wrote pretty late last night; up at 6 ½ this morning. Went with Follen to Consho. at 7 ½. He told me something which made me laugh suddenly, and at the same time the horse gave a quick jerk in speed and the jerk & laugh threw me into a palpitation. I went to the Post Office, got my papers, went to Howard Wood's ---- [illeg.], then I stopped at Geo. Keys to see his wife; got home feeling very badly, took 33 drops Tinct. Digitalis & went to bed at 10 o'clock. At 12 took a little dinner and ¼ gr. Sulph. Morph., in half an hour another ¼. [It] went off in a few minutes after that. At 3, went to practice, saw several patients and got home at 6 P.M. Wrote till now, at 9 P.[M.] on Uterine Hemorrhage for the "Reporter." Got a letter from Dr. Shaw of Pittsburgh commending my articles in the Reporter, Thoughts on Midwifery, and urging me to continue them. A few days ago and today, got one from Dr. Stewart, of Erie, thanking me for them too, and just now while writing this, rec'd. one from Dr. Charles Styer



commending them, but intimating that I will be likely to have an attack on myself to parry.

January 25: Saturday.

Rec'd. four more letters and postals commending my medical papers entitled "Thoughts on Midwifery."

January 26: Sunday.

Follen took me this P.M. to see Hon. Wm. B. Roberts, that I might give him the "Bill," which we prepared to present to the Legislature to authorize the appointment of a Female Supt. He was not at home. I went as we returned to see Dr. Ellwood Corson's child. Thought it would do well; returned very weary; wrote several letters during the evening.

January 27: Monday.

Spent a rather feverish night, had tooth-ache somewhat and was exceedingly weary. [I] have done so much mental & physical labor, every day for a long time, though I have scarcely made a note of my labors or the practice here. Was up and off to Consho. with Follen at 7 ½, saw one family there, was in Norristown at 9 A.[M.], at Bridgeport to see Mr. Roberts at 9:30, arranged my business with him, visited the Prison on my return by request of the Warden to determine about the ventilation when all the doors are closed. Saw several patients this P.M. and this evening have endorsed 57 reports to members of the Legislature. Had my last back-tooth extracted today. Am very weary. Intend to take rest of body & mind for a while.

February 6: Thursday.

I have been greatly engaged since last writing, in practice and with the necessary correspondence to perfect my bill and gain friends for it. This week met Hon. Wm. B. Roberts at Bridgeport on Monday morning to learn how he was getting on with it, and to place some of our memorials in his hands and suggested some measures. Have rec'd. two letters since, telling me that the Bill had been read, referred to the Committee on Education and reported back to the House favorably, and is now on the Calendar to come up in proper time. So far we have been eminently successful. Mr. Roberts is doing his best in the case. He also named 7 Senators with whom he had talked and all were favorable.

I have been greatly wearied many days by my incessant practice & evening writing until 10 at night. But as our bill is now under way, I hope to have release from that source of labor.

Yesterday I went to Conshohocken with Follen and took the Cars at 8:10, stopped at Germantown Junction twenty minutes, [spent] twenty minutes with Dr. Styer, whom I had asked to meet me there, to tell me how he was getting on with his attempt to secure the position of physician to Girard College, to aid him in which I have written letters to Mr. Heyward Drayton<sup>iv</sup> & Mr. Geo. L. Harrison, and to the "Board of City Trusts." Leaving Dr. Styer, I rode on to Bristol, stopped there to go about ¼ of a mile to see Cousin Dick Corson (Uncle Amos Corson's son) and his daughter, both of whom are under my care for chronic ailments.

At 11:05 A.M., I started again and was at Dr. Thos. J. Corson's in Trenton, just before noon. Had a nice visit of three hours. Took the Cars again, was at the Junction in time to take the 3:45 train home; was home by 5 P.[M.], then went to Messrs Yocoms to see our grandchild, little Georgie Yocom, and back home before supper. Just after getting home, while playing with little Bertha Yocom, I was struck by palpitation. It lasted me about 3 hours, but while it was on me, I wrote several letters to while away the time. Dr. Zigz-----[illegible] wrote a commendation of my articles in the Reporter and also sent me a postal wanting me to write more. Today I have ridden a great deal in practice.

Lillie Bacon, daughter of Francis & Hannah, is here on a week's vacation from school. She and daughter Mary are riding about on visits and enjoying themselves. She is only about 15, but is a nice, good girl, the exact picture of her mother at that age.

I have just endorsed seven reports to go to some members of the Board of P[ublic] Charities, and some other friends.

February 10: Monday.

Rec'd. from Hon. Wm. B. Roberts a printed copy of the "Act" to regulate & manage asylums or hospitals for the Insane, which I drew up. Whether it is full enough I do not know. It is plain & to the point at least.

I met Hon. Wm. B. Roberts at the Bridgeport Station this morning and counseled with him as to the best way to manage our case. He says: "Every Senator & Rep. I have met is favorable to our bill."

I have ridden a great many miles in practice today.

February 12: Wednesday.

Rec'd. several letters this morning, one from Dr. Pollock of Pittsburgh thanking me for writing the "Thoughts on Midwifery," which have been published in the Med. & Surg. Reporter of Philad. I have practiced a good deal today, but now at 5 P.M. am suffering from palpitation which has been on me since 3 P.M. As I can not go about much, I conclude to write till bed-time, then will take anodyne & go to bed.

February 13: Thursday.

The palpitation of yesterday did not leave me till 3 o'clock this morning. I did not sleep at all the whole night, but as I had taken ½ grain Sulph. Morph., I was pretty comfortable, and especially after the palpitation went off. Today I have done no practice, but have read Brown Sequard's<sup>v</sup> papers on "Nervous Diseases."

February 20: Thursday.

A few days ago I rec'd. a letter from Professor Henry H. Smith of Philad. asking me to attend a discussion which was to take place last evening at the College of Physicians on Pneumonia & its treatment, and I also rec'd. an invitation from Dr. Thos. G. Morton to meet Frank Wells, Esq. of the Evening Bulletin at dinner at his (Dr. Morton's) house on the same evening. I could attend at Morton's & then attend the other, which would not convene till 8 P.M. The weather was unpropitious & I had concluded not to go, when at 5 P.M. I rec'd. a telegram from Morton, urging me to come. I hastily got ready & went. Had a pleasant time at Morton's. It was an interview to

agree on a plan to influence the Legislature in opposition to the reselected management of the Building Com. of the Hospital at Norristown. Got home at 10 ½ P.M.

February 22: Saturday.

Have rec'd. a great many letters this week, one more letter from Dr. L. B. Tuckerman of Ashtabula, Ohio, commending my "Thoughts on Midwifery," an excellent letter which I shall use as confirmation of the arraignment which I made against the Teachers of Medicine of frightening the Students in relation to the dangers of labor.

[Had] palpitation 13 hours, from 3 P.M. on 22d. to 4 A.M. 23d. Took 36 drops Tinct. Dig[italis] in an hour after it began, but as it did not cease for 12 hours, took ½ gr. Morph. and in half an hour it ceased.

February 23: Sunday.

8 A.M. The palpitation went off four hours ago, and I feel pretty well, but am to go with Dr. Morton to Wm. B. Roberts at 3 ½ P.M. today, to explain the doings of the majority of the Building Committee of the Hospital at Norristown.

March 2: Sunday.

At 8 A.M. I was taken [with palpitation] and it held on till six P.M. I was in bed very little, wrote and read a good deal. At 5 P.[M.] took ¼ gr. Morph. and in less than an hour it stopped. Have written a letter while it was on me, a long one to Sarah Dolly and a shorter one to a Mrs. Pierce of the Century Club of Ladies in Philad.

March 11: Tuesday.

I have done a good deal of practice during the last week or 10 days; have had many letters and have written many. Have read a good deal of medicine, &c., &c. Past night at 10 o'clock, just as I got into bed, was taken with palpitation, and it lasted me till today at noon, 14 hours.

There are considerable excitements in Congress and in our State Legislature. In the latter there are so many new "Bills" introduced daily and some heavy ones, in passage, that my bill is delayed. I have rec'd. from Dr. Wilbur of Syracuse, N. York, a request for Pamphlets, &c., and also a letter informing me that if he had had my memorial sooner, he would have tried to have a law passed in N. Y. to have a female Medical Assistant in every hospital in the State. So we see that my movement, apparently so weak a year ago, is now threatening to overturn the system, which has so long prevailed in the whole Union, of having male medical assistants for female insane departments. What a tremendous conflagration a little fire kindleth.

March 13: Thursday.

I have done very little today, though intending to do a good deal. After dinner a Lady, who is about lecturing on Temperance, was brought here by Sarah Morris, née Ellis, and I was occupied about two hours by her, gave her Prof. Sewell's four plates of the natural healthy stomach, and three grades of disease caused by drunkenness. She was an exceedingly interesting visitor. I gave her also my Report to State Med. Soc. and my three Nos. of "Thoughts on Midwifery," as she is lecturing on preventive medicine and on Hygiene.

March 16: Sunday.

Yesterday there was a meeting of the Hospital Commission Members of the Legislature (to the number of 40 or more) and other interested people at the new Hospital buildings at Norristown to examine them, and see if the Commission had properly used their means. Ellwood took me over from their office, just in time to go around with three who came from Harrisburgh. After an examination, a collation was had and afterwards speeches were made by Mr. Jos. Patterson, president of the Commission, by Gov. Hartranft, a gentleman representing the Ledger, and then I was called on. After I had spoken, Judge Shonze [sic] also spoke. The members of the Legislature seemed to be greatly pleased with the buildings and will no doubt pass the appropriation asked for, \$173,000. I came directly from there to the sale of Isaac Garretson's property in Conshohocken and arrived there just as they were about to put up 13 acres of land, as a whole, which had been tried in lots. The condition being that if it brought more as a whole, than had been bid for the lots, it would be sold. I purchased it for \$1,110. The house in Plymouth Village was next sold at \$3,575.

March 17: Monday.

There is much surprise that the lots which I bought on Saturday should have been bought so cheap and if the creditors, or any one of them, should "file exceptions," there will doubtless be another sale. They are all wonderfully cheap. The late owner would not in the good times take less than a thousand Dollars per acre, as a whole.

April 22d. I have returned to this page to say that I have gotten the Deed for the lot that I bought.

March 21: Friday.

Thursday evening 10 P.M. Early, at seven A.M., I took Follen to the Cars. After reading my letters in the P[ost] office. I went into the Hotel at the Station to see what time a sale occurred, and while looking at the advertisements on the wall, I was shook most forcibly, became a little giddy, but no one noticed it. So, I came off, [went] home and sat or laid about, wrote some letters, &c., and it went off at 8 P.M. I took 40 drops Tinct. Digitalis at 9 A.M. and thirty at noon. Took nothing else. Have written two letters since, one to the Committee who invited me to the Dinner to be given to Prof. Gross April 10<sup>th</sup>, which is pasted here. I am having so many attacks of palpitation of Heart, that I fear to go, and in addition to that, it will take place on the day of our Board of Trustees meeting at Harrisburgh in April.

March 22: Saturday.

Have read a great deal and written letters this wet afternoon. Practiced all the forenoon. Examined my student, Thomas O'Brien, in Anatomy, &c.

March 28: Friday.

I went to Philad. this morning to have her [no name given] seen by Dr. Goodell. After disposing of her case and a talk with Goodell, I went to see daughter Bertha and her family. There I found Frannie & her daughter Bertha. I then made several calls on physicians and took the cars at one & a half P.M. for home, where I arrived at 3 P.[M.]. Since that, I have not been out.

Yesterday I visited a good many patients and cleared up the "Practice," so as to be away today. Have had two very excellent letters commending my "Thoughts on Midwifery" from persons in Ohio and Wisconsin.

The weather continues very cold, and I might say disagreeable, the wind being very cold. Congress and our State Legislature are in Session and very busy and excited. My Bill in relation to Female Superintendents will be likely to come on this week next, and we have a great hope that it will pass.

Follen came home at 6 P.M., but was compelled to go to the City again at 7:30 to attend a meeting of the Directors of a Building Association of which he is a Director & Counsel. [He] will be up at 10 ½ tonight. Wm., our boy, will go for him to Sp. Mill. "Mother" (wife) is sitting in the rocking chair in the parlor, where I am reading.

March 30: Sunday.

The Spring is very late, not any plowing by the Farmers yet. The ground quite wet, though we really had but a very few inches of rainfall all winter.

The region here has been very healthy. No epidemics of any kind all winter. My 4<sup>th</sup> No. of "Thoughts on Midwifery" is published. There will be one number more. I was at daughter Tacie Cresson's yesterday and there learned that their house had been entered by thieves on Thursday night and some silverware was stolen. The new fence in front of the house is now up. It is an iron fence, and quite pretty.

Four Numbers of Thoughts on Midwifery have appeared in five numbers of the Med. & Surg. Reporter of Philad., from my pen, which have brought me almost 30 letters of thanks and commendation.

April 4: Friday.

Had palpitation from 5 P.[M.] yesterday till 1 ½ A.M. today.

April 10: Thursday.

Have done much practice today. Have rec'd. a great many letters since last writing.

I have concluded my papers on "Thoughts on Midwifery," and letters are coming, thanking me for them.

Palpitation from 2 ½ P.M. on the 8<sup>th</sup> till 2 ½ A.M. on [the] 9<sup>th</sup>. It occurred while at Dr. Ash's office in Vine St. I said nothing about it, but took the Street Car to Bertha's. Then Bertha went with me to Dr. Pepper in Spruce St. I had him examine me while the palpitation was on me. He prescribed for me, but I have just begun to take Quinin and Bro. Pot. [Potassium Bromide]. I will continue with them.

April 20: Sunday.

I have done a good deal of good practice since the last writing, and have had a great many ornamental and other trees planted here and at the new House in Norristown, and have collected money pretty well of the rich, but not a farthing of the Poor. It is a very hard time on many, because of their indebtedness, and on others on account of loss of work.

April 24: Thursday.

Yesterday wife and self went to Trenton in the train which left Germantown Junction just after 8 A.M., arrived at Trenton without accident in an hour, and at Dr. Thos. J. Corson's in a few minutes by the Street Car.

Poor Fellow! How weak and worn out he is. [He] has been now for several years gradually becoming enfeebled, by reason of a disease of the spinal marrow. From his loins to his feet he is now almost entirely helpless. Indeed he is utterly helpless. He has during all these years attended to his duties as "Grand Recorder of the Masonic Fraternity of New Jersey," and has prepared some of the best annual Records which has been produced by any State.

He was so weak yesterday that he could speak but a few minutes at a time to any one without feeling a desire that they should leave. Yet his voice was good & natural, and he wrote a prescription for his Pastor to take to the druggist.

We left there at noon for home. At the "Junction" we parted. I came home and wife went to daughter Frannie's.

My hired men, of whom I had four, and my two female servants, all had been doing good work, and daughter Mary had supervised the household affairs properly. She met me at the Cars at Spring Mill

Last Sunday we had a visit from Horace Tarr and his wife & two children. His wife was formerly Agnes Bacon, daughter of Charles Bacon of Philad. by his wife Anna Thomas. He afterward married Lydia Foulke, sister to my wife.

May 22: Thursday.

I went to Chester in the 1 P.M. train from Norristown and got to Chester just as the meeting commenced at 3 P.M. on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> of May. Saw many friends and returned to Philad. in the evening. Staid all night at Richard Day's, 460 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Philad. Next morning went down at 8 from Broad & Prince. Just before getting in the Depot, while going down 13<sup>th</sup> St. in the Street Car, I was taken with palpitation. I was disposed to return, but as I had my report with me which was to be read about 10 o'clock, I concluded to go on, and in company with Dr. Smith, Dr. Albert H. Smith, I did so. My palpitation continued. I got Dr. Graill Green to read my report when it was called for. Then Dr. Kerlin read a pretty bitter "Minority Report," and this was followed by a resolution from Dr. John Atlee to take no further action on the subject of female physicians. Drs. Green, Albert Smith, & Sibbet took my side, and some the other side. I felt that I must say something in reply and rose to do it. My voice was husky and weak, but in a few minutes, as I warmed up, I found myself speaking with ease and force. The palp[itation] had gone off. Our report carried, or rather the resolution was lost and our report accepted. Came home at 6 P.M.

May 25: Sunday.

As will be seen by reference to opposite page, I have written nothing for a month. In that time I have been greatly engaged in looking after Our Bill (at Harrisburgh) to have a law enabling Trustees of Hospitals for the Insane to appoint a Female Supt., Medical, for the female department. We got it through the House without opposition, thanks to the able management of Hon. Wm. B. Roberts of this County. When he took the Bill over to the Senate and gave it and our papers to Royer, our Senator, he did not go before

the Senate Co[m]. to which it was referred, but left it take chance. The opposition which had lain in ambush, as it were, suddenly appeared before the Committee with a memorial signed by sixty, surgeons, assist. Surgeons, physicians, &c., &c., headed by Ray<sup>vi</sup> & Kirkbride, old and venerated Superintendents, and by that and personal representatives, had the bill sent back to the Senate with a "negative recommendation." I was at once notified by Mr. Roberts, who was astonished at the result. We went to work. He called to his aid Mr. Robt. A.. Lamberton & Mr. Wm. Caulder (two of our Trustees and very showy men) and they had influence enough to have it recommitted and today I am informed by Mr. Roberts, whom I have just visited, that it is on the Senate Calendar, and will probably come up for action tomorrow evening.

Besides the above subject, I have had much to attend to, on the farm, in practice, overseeing the completion of my new house, &c., &c. I have also had a heavy correspondence and had a report to make out, of our doings for the past year as a memorial committee. The report was read before the State Med. Soc. last Thursday at its meeting in Chester.

June 4: Wednesday.

Palpitation at 12 noon till 6 P.[M.], then [was] well till I went to bed, when it came on while I was in bed. I at once got up and took ½ gr. Morph. I had not laid down but a few minutes when it went off.

June 11: Wednesday.

I have read several medical journals since last writing, keep up with all my newspapers, &c., &c., have practiced a good deal and attended to my farming & house-building, &c.

June 12: Thursday.

Wife and Frannie & her one month old, Charles Day, came up from Philad. today. Frannie is not very smart, is weak & somewhat nervous. She will stay during the warm weather. The weather is very hot now.

Our crops are beautiful. We have 9 acres of corn on the Conshohocken land which is growing rapidly.

June 14: Saturday.

I had an attack of palpitation at 7 ½ last evening. William Cresson & Frannie and their four children had come in but a short time before, and while I was talking with them, it struck me. I cont'd. to talk on, and after they went away, I went to bed. Slept pretty well till near midnight. At one, it went off.

This morning I feel pretty well and, as I have a number of patients to see, will be pretty busy.

9 P.M. Have been very busy, practicing, keeping three men at work, going to Norristown on business, &c., &c.

There is a great struggle now on the part of a number of politicians and others to be appointed Trustees to the new Hospital. I am told that I could be appointed if I would accept, or make application. But I do not want it. I am too old now (nearly 75) and almost too heavy of hearing. I write to Joseph and also get a letter from him every week.

Death of Dr. Thomas Johnson Corson of Trenton, New Jersey.

He was the son of Dr. Richard Davis Corson, a first cousin of my father Joseph Corson. He had been suffering for seven years from a disease of the spinal marrow, called Locomotor Ataxia. He died May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1879, and four days after he was buried at the Presbyterian Church three or four miles below New Hope, down the "River Road," where all his family, or Father's family are buried. I was not able to attend the funeral. Follen and I started to go, but at Conshohocken, before we got our tickets, I was taken with palpitation and had to return. Follen went on, and went to the grave. He returned that evening. He [Thomas Johnson Corson] leaves but one child, Harriet Corson, "Hatty Corson," 15 years old. She will now live with her Grandfather, George Steever of Philad.

The Grand Recorder has sent me those three issues, of the "Grand Commandery of Knights of Templar," and of the "Grand Royal Arch Chapter" and the Grand Commander of the State of New Jersey.

I enclose them here in memory of "Cousin Tom," who was a most talented and good man. New Jersey has not within her borders a more intellectual man. During all his long sickness not a murmur escaped him to visitors, and never once did he refer in my presence to the Malady which we both knew was carrying him certainly and uninterruptedly to the grave. I of course would inquire of him how he was, and he perhaps reply pleasantly that "the disease was marching on," or that he believed no Doctor he has yet tried knew any thing that would benefit him.

June 15: Sunday.

I have written a great many letters today.

July 3: Thursday.

Since last writing, we have been going on as usual, practicing, writing, reading, attending to the Farm, &c., &c.

Daughter Frannie & children have been with us since last writing. Her youngest is only seven weeks old, and Bertha, , the oldest, about 3 ½.

We have all our grain cut and half of it in the Barn. Had the men worked today, we would have had it all in. We have 25 loads of hay in.

Charles Williams' barn was burned down last Monday night. This is the 3d time. Some say by taking in green hay every time; others & myself think it has been set on fire. It certainly is a singular coincidence that it always has happened just after the hay was put in.

Have been taking 1 ½ drachms of Infus[um] Digitalis and 15 grs. Bromide Potassium 3 times daily, to prevent palpitation, since the 16<sup>th</sup> of June, but I had an attack of half an hour today.

July 14: Monday.

Death of Amos Lee Corson, son of my uncle Joshua Corson. He died at his home, 2219 Spring Garden St., Philad., where he lived during the last, perhaps 15 years, about the 5<sup>th</sup> of this month and was buried on the 9<sup>th</sup>. I went to the funeral before going to Harrisburgh on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Son Follen and daughter Bertha were there, the former serving as one of the Pall Bearers. He was buried at Peace Mill, near Laurel Hill.



Follen & myself took the 2 ½ P.M. train to Philad. on our way to Atlantic City which we reached after two detentions at 8 P.M. It was strange that we had a breakdown on each road. Put up at the United States. Next day, [we] made a circuit of the town and the beach, witnessed the bathing & coming of Excursions, &c., and left for home at 5:50 P.M., arrived safely after 9 P.[M.].

The Sunday before we went to Atlantic City, I felt as I had done for many days, quite weak and languid, and came to think it was from the Digitalis and Bro. Pot., so quit it at once. I have felt better since and am convinced that they greatly weakened me.

My niece Ida Corson came home from Washington City, D.C. yesterday. She is still with her Uncle, Dr. Maulsby of the Navy. The Doctor is now quite rich and lives there in good style. He seems to have adopted her, having no children of his own.

July 17: Thursday.

A few days ago, I paid another visit to the Harrisburgh Lunatic Hospital to meet the Board of Trustees. Went up on the 9<sup>th</sup> and came home on the evening of the 10<sup>th</sup>. While sitting in the Board, [I] was taken with palpitation. [I] sat still and went on with business for about [a] half hour, then passed over in another room, and laid myself down on a lounge. It went off in a few minutes. Got home very well. [I] said nothing about it to my fellows in the Board.

Was at Norristown to see Judge Ross this forenoon to get an order to have Hugh Briarty released from the Harrisburgh Hospital, as he is well. I got the order and sent for him.

Called to see "Will & Tacie." They have gone to Boston, will go from there to Saratoga Springs & then home; brought "Jamie," as Tacie calls him, home with me to play with Frannie and Thomas Yocom.

July 23: Wednesday.

Since I quit taking Digitalis and Bro. Pot., I feel better, none of that depression and weakness which I felt so greatly before I quit taking them. I am seeing patients every day and getting up acc[oun]ts., overseeing my farm, &c. Have 40 acres of land now, and very good land, too.

What a world of news we have every day now from the whole world. I rec'd. a free Season ticket at Atlantic City, from the manager of the road this morning. I also have one from Camden to Philad. for myself & wife.

Joseph & family have arrived at Fort Bridger at the home of Judge Carter, his father-in-law, where they will stay till Fall.

July 26: Sunday.

Joseph has written to Follen to ask if we would think it worth while for him to come on from Fort Bridger to see us. He would like to do it, though it is 2000 miles away, and expensive to come. As he will have only 2 months leave, & will then return to Ft. Yuma for a year or two, we directed Follen to Telegraph to him to come on, especially too, as Ada wished him to come. So we will look for him in a few days. It was on the 26<sup>th</sup> Follen sent the telegram.

July 29: Tuesday.

Have been very well since the 14<sup>th</sup> when I quit taking Digitalis, Have been indeed very well, but on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> July, had an attack for  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour.

August 7: Thursday.

Had a palpitation of a few minutes on the 4<sup>th</sup>, also on [the] 5<sup>th</sup>, On the 6<sup>th</sup> it came on while riding a good deal all day. I have been as well as could be for the last month save those three little spells, have felt strong and active, not weary.

Joseph has 2 months vacation, is spending it at Fort Bridger, with his father-in-law's family. He thought of coming home and spending a week or two with us, but has concluded not to do it., as he now has a prospect of being relieved next Fall.

August 8: Friday.

Follen has come from the City at his usual time & says Jos. will be here Saturday morning. Had a letter from him today, [which] changed this news.

August 9: Saturday.

Joseph arrived at Spring Mill from Philad. at noon. I was there to meet him. Follen & Mary came up at 3 P.M. They are all "out front" now talking. I have had several to call on different matters and have thus been busy since supper. It is now 9 P.M.

Joseph came home, or to Spring Mill in the Cars at 10:55 from Philad. I met him at Spring Mill and brought him up. He looks very well and is so.

August 18: Monday.

After practicing some in the forenoon, I went with Joseph to Philad. in the one P.M. train, in the midst of a rain which is now in its 3d. day. It rained steadily and copious all the afternoon. I parted with Joseph at 4 P.M. at James Yocom's, 2240 Vine St. and came home with son, Follen, at 4:45 P.M. Joseph had his passage engaged from Philad. at 11:45 P.[M.]. He intended to take tea at Frannie's and then go over, take his sleeping birth (already engaged) and go to bed about 9 P.[M.].

At sunset, the sun came out in great splendor for a few minutes. The night now (9 P.) is brilliant with stars.

September 9: Tuesday.

The day after Joseph left, we heard that the train had been stopped at Lancaster on account of an incoming train having been thrown off the track just beyond there. It was fortunately discovered in time to stop the Express going west. He had gone to bed in the sleeping car at 9 o'clock. Though they did not expect to start till after eleven, and expected to awake while coursing along the Juniata near to Altoona, when, Lo! he found himself in the morning at Lancaster. It was a great disappointment, which was felt by delays in several other places on acc[ount] of being behind time.

We have all been getting along in the usual way. On Sunday, Sep. 7<sup>th</sup>, I had palpitation for 14 hours.

September 21: Sunday.

Wife has been sick several days, was taken with severe neuralgia (or pain from congestion of brain) pain last Monday. As she is of so full habit, I concluded to bleed her, [and] did so. After [her] arm was tied up, she fainted so dead that I thought she was dead almost, but by skating [sic], giving some Spt. Camph., &c., she came to, but I think I shall never bleed her again. I was fearfully frightened. Two days after, she had a chill, and again last Thursday, and then was greatly delirious for hours. She took on Friday 24 grs. Quinine & 12 grs. Sulph. Cinchona in 24 hours. Is now pretty well, but still in bed.

There has been a great deal of Ague<sup>vii</sup> about the country this last month, a very unusual thing in the past 20 years.

September 24: Wednesday.

Have attended the Medical Meeting of the County today; quite a good many there & had a pleasant time. Practiced all the forenoon.

A sad affair has occurred within a week. George Truman, son of the Quaker-Preacher George Truman, recently deceased, a chief clerk of Quarter Sessions, was knocked down & his leg stomped on & broken by a companion in a brawl at 3 o'clock in the morning, coming from a gambling house. Sad! How sad! He has since died, and his assailant, his intimate friend is in jail. He, Truman, stood high with the people, but this event revealed his habits.

September 27: Saturday.

There is a great revival of business among the iron producers. Furnaces all going in "blast" again. Iron (pig iron) has advanced several dollars per ton. It is not a little provoking to those who had, as D. V. Hitner, Mr. Morehead and others, thousands of tons on their banks, that they sold it only within the last year, after keeping it there for more than 10 years, at the lowest price to which it sank at all, and scarcely had they parted with it, than up it went and is still rising. The ore diggers are jubilant and are digging all around. Men will begin to dig for me tomorrow. New rail roads are being projected all through the State.

September 29: Monday.

At 8 P.M. last evening, I was taken with palpitation. It lasted till 3 A.M. today. Then I was well and at practice till 11 A.M. when it came on. I cont'd. at work till 1 P.[M.], then lay down and at 4, it went off. I am now well as ever.

Wife is about the house again, but seems weak and somewhat oppressed on the least exertion. I hope she will soon be better. She eats pretty heartily.

I have written many letters within this month. [I] am now writing letters and sending papers to the Trustees of the New Hospital, as soon as they are appointed, so as to mould them to my views in favor of female physicians, &c.

October 16: Thursday.

Have had palpitation but once since Sep. 29<sup>th</sup> and that occurred on the 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 ½ P.M.. At 11, I took ½ gr. morph. and at 2 ½ A.M. on [the] 17<sup>th</sup>, it went off. I slept none that night to speak of and next morning early was up and at 8 o'clock started to

Conshohocken, got my letters, saw 3 patients, and with Mary went to the Bridgeport Depot, and took leave of Mary, and left for Harrisburgh at 10:24 A.M.. Got to Harrisburgh at 2 P.[M.], went to the Lochiel and staid till 4 P.[M.], then took the Cars for Carlisle to see the hundred & more young Indians who have been brought from their tribes to be educated here. Just before sunset, I reached the town, then walked out rapidly to the Barracks, presented my letter of introduction from Mayor Mauck, to Mrs. Capt. Pratt (the Capt. not being at home) and was at once given the freedom of the grounds to go where I pleased. It was an interesting sight to see these young "savages," as our folks are pleased to call Indians, playing, whooping, screaming & tussling in the middle of "the parade." After looking at those moccasined, blanketed, half clothed youths (they have only been there two weeks and have not yet gotten their new clothes), I visited the girls who were at supper. These were the daughters of "Spotted Tail" and other Chiefs, some very lovely girls, but generally Indian girls and women are not pretty. The men do no work scarcely and you will find that many of them have the most delicate hands, & tapering fingers, and are erect and graceful in their carriage, while females are the very reverse. The object in having the boys and girls to be educated together is to teach the men to respect females, and to learn that in civilized white Society, the men are expected to do the hard, heavy work and to treat women with respect & tenderness.

There are about a hundred males under 17 and only about one third that number of females, the Indians not being so willing to spare the girls, because they are the workers. They hope to have almost 150 of each sex. Another great object is to have educated wives for the educated men. They were not the least home-sick but as happy as children could possibly be.

Returned to Harrisburgh at 8 P.[M.]. Drs. Seiler<sup>viii</sup> and Dunot<sup>ix</sup> called to see me and spent an hour. Then Tom Foulke came at 9 ½ P.[M.] and staid a while.

October 17: Friday.

Messieurs Gross & Lamberton called in a carriage to take me over to the Hospital. We had quite an interesting meeting, and at 3 ½ P.M. I was again in Harrisburgh and at 4 P.[M.] took the Cars for home where I arrived at 9 P.M., finding all well. I had a pleasant trip.

October 19: Sunday.

There has been exceedingly hot weather for the past two weeks and more. Such a hot spell was never remembered by the "oldest inhabitants" at this time of year. Fortunately it has changed today, coming down from 70-75 to fifty.

I have been very well since last writing, have done a good deal of practice, had the apples gathered, farming carried on, have written & read a good deal, &c.

October 22: Wednesday.

Yesterday while riding with Mary, about 11 o'clock A.M. to Flour Town, I was struck with a palpitation. I had it till 8 P.M., though I was up and visited some patients in the afternoon & evening. I took some morph. (1/2 gr.) at 8 P.[M.], and it went off in a few minutes. I was sorry I took it, for it would have gone off at that time without it, and it kept me awake all last night. But I have been right well all day, and as I was called to several new patients, Howard Wood's daughter with Diphtheria and Mayor Mauck, and

his daughter with cough, I have been busy with them and the old ones. It is now 9 P.[M.]. I have written to Joseph and to Elizabeth Corson

November 2: Sunday.

Last Thursday I took Mary with me on a visit to Doctor Samuel Wolfe & family at Skippackville. He is quite a young man, say 30 years old, a very promising physician, for he is a thinker, and a logical man, a reader and careful observer. [He] recently, two years ago, married a Miss Seip[t] of that place. It was a beautiful day. The corn huskers were at work; the grain & turnips in the numerous fields were green as green could be. We were there by 10 ½ A.M. The Doctor and myself staid in the office going over medical subjects till dinner time, & after that we returned to the office, as it was time for his patients, if any, to call. One came with a slight sore throat. Dr. W. has a great stock of medicines, five times the variety that I have. Just about 2 ½ P.M. as I was about to move for going home, an attack of palpitation began. I told Dr. Wolfe about it and told him that on a previous occasion, Dr. Pepper had counted the pulse and said it beat 180 times per minute. Dr. W. counted it and found it 216, and that both standing and sitting. He had my horse brought and we rode to the house; then he and I went upstairs under the pretence of his wanting me to see something. I laid down and he took my temperature, 98 ½ F. So it seems that the increased activity of the circulation did not increase the temperature. We drove to Dr. Mes[c]hter's where I staid half an hour, talking with him; arrived at home at 5 P.M. When I got home they told me I had been sent for to Howard Wood's daughter. I went there & return by six.

Follen & Mary went to Norristown to hear Mr. Colfax's discourse on the life of Abraham Lincoln, our Martyr President. After they left, I told wife of my having palpitation. At 8 P.[M.] went to bed. It did not go off till 2 A.M. on Friday 31<sup>st</sup>.

The County Convention of Public School Teachers has been in session all the past week, and every evening they have had a lecture from some noted man. It is pleasant to see how the appearance of the Teachers has improved within twenty years. The public schools are now ably conducted in most townships. Females are very conspicuous at those gatherings, although 25 years ago, we had great trouble to get the people to see that they were the proper persons to have charge of schools for children.

November 9: Sunday.

Susan and her husband, Jaywood Lukens, are in the room with Follen, Mary and their mother, while I am writing letters to various Correspondents.

Last evening at 6 ½ o'clock I was taken with palpitation which lasted me till one o'clock this morning. What a strange thing this is, comes on me when in the most perfect health, holds on for many hours, and then goes off in an instant, and at once, I am as well as when it came on.

I have been writing very steadily every night till 10 o'clock, preparing my paper on the value of the cold treatment in S. Fever and Measles and Diphtheria.

I wrote to the Editor of the Medical and Surgical Reporter of Philad. of my plan a few days ago, and he disapproves of it most decidedly. He wants me to rewrite the whole matter. My plan was to gather into one paper, in chronological order, all that I have written on the subject, and which has been published in various journals & then add to that whatever commendations of my treatment have appeared from other pens, and add

also all the facts bearing on the matter and intersperse these by my own comments so as to elucidate the subject fully.

Though he opposes it, I shall go on and complete my paper on my own plan, will then lay it away and try what I can get up on his plan. We are too late, he says, to publish anything this winter, so I need not hurry myself.

Yesterday, by appointment, Dr. Clara Marshall, one of the Professors in the Woman's College came up to see me about the situation of physicians to the female department of the Insane Asylum at Norristown. We took a ride to see it, called on brother William, &c.

November 10: Monday.

From a little too much exertion, I had a palpitation for one hour today. I had hurried myself to get some cattle out of the lot.

November 11: Tuesday.

By invitation I took Dr. E. C. Leedom, my neighbor and friend from childhood, to Germantown to dine with P. R. Freas, Editor of the "Germantown Telegraph," a paper he had edited for about 45 years. We had a pleasant ride down, got there at 12 noon, dined with the family & a guest, Edward Wright, who had been invited to meet us. We had a very pleasant time till 4 P.M. Then came home, where we found all well.

Mr. Freas was a school mate of ours, but is about 3 years younger than Dr. Leedom, who is one year younger than I am.

November 18: Tuesday.

Rec'd. an invitation from Dr. Wm. A. Hammond, Surgeon General (retired) U. S. Army, to dine with him & meet Dr. Wales, Surgeon General, U.S. Navy, at his home in New York on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>. I wrote him that "chill Novembers surly blasts," my advanced age and crippled heart would prevent me from being present. He also sent me 10 copies of his address delivered before the Medical Society of Connecticut, on the construction and management of hospitals for the Insane. I was very sorry not to go to his dinner as I so admire plucky men, and I scarcely know any like these two. I have acquaintance with Surgeon Phillip S. Wales, as he was a neighbor of ours one summer, was then living in the house owned by Nathaniel Yerkes, nearly opposite the old Yerkes Store, at junction of Norristown & Conshohocken turnpike roads.

November 23: Sunday

Did a good deal of "Practice" last week; was taken with palpitation Saturday Ev. at 8 o'clock. At 10 ½ took ½ gr. morph. At midnight it stopped. Did not get a wink of sleep till 3 ½ A.M. today. Morph. always makes me comfortable but wakeful.

Visited patients till noon today. Have written several long letters since and arranged my papers, so as to have everything ready for writing my coming pamphlet on S. Fever. My letters were to Dr. W. B. Tackett, Cuthbert, Ga., E. A. Wood, M.D., Pittsburgh & Prof. James Tyson, University of Pa., Philad., and one to son Joseph K. Corson, Ft. Yuma, Arizona.

December 7: Sunday.

It is just two weeks since I last wrote here, and two weeks also since I had a palpitation. I have written a great many letters and rec'd. a great many. Have done considerable practice, and have attended to getting iron ore diggers underway. One party took out 68 tons last month, which gives me \$34 ground rent; two other parties began to "sink" last week; one of them "has ore."

Twice, since writing, I have visited the University to see Students, Carroll, Tom, and Charlie Dolly and Geo. Highley. Last Thursday I got there just in time to go in with Professor Stillé to his lecture. He gave me a seat right in front of his desk, so that I could hear him plainly, and fortunately his lecture was on Diphtheria. It was a beautiful and accurate history of the disease, its causes & symptoms, and when he came to speak of the treatment, he paid a handsome compliment to me as the originator of the "ice treatment," which was instantly followed by a hearty burst of applause from the hundreds of students. After the lecture, he made a careful examination of my heart, but could not find any abnormal sound save a slight, almost indiscernible one which accompanies old age sometimes, as a result of age. After that I went by request of my friend Dr. Tyson [to see him], but I staid but a short time, then went over to Philad. proper. Went to see a lawyer who thinks our family is connected with, or descendants of a certain Vanhorn [Van Horn] family, Ann Vanhorn, who married Cornelius Corson, and that an Estate in Holland is waiting for her heirs. He gave me some information of the early Corsons and promised to send me more. I told him if he should do it, I would give him my share of the Estate, a very safe offer as none will ever come.

December 9: Tuesday.

Mrs. Harriet Foulke, "Aunt Harriet" as the children call her, and as she is to them, came up with Follen & her son Thomas Foulke from Philad. last evening. She is still here. She and "Mother" & Mary seem to have a pleasant social time of it. My men, two gangs of them, are getting plenty of Iron ore, and of good quality. They give me 50 cts. per ton ground rent.

Got a long, nice letter from Joseph today, one from Dr. Curwen, one from Dr. Benj. Lee. Wrote to Dr. Kern, to Dr. Martin & to Mr. Addison May, all Trustees of the Hospital. Got one from Pliny Earle, Supt. of Northampton Hospital for Insane in Mass. Got from him also 12 copys [sic] of his "Glance at Insanity."

December 15: Monday.

I have been much engaged in various ways besides my practice since last writing. Have been getting more men to lease places of me to dig ore. Have three sets now, and every set found ore in the first shaft which they sunk.

I have a patient in Philad. and one at Conshohocken, Hon John Wood's daughter, [also] Mrs. Merriman, who came from Williamsport to be under my care.

Our Tenant on Penllyn Farm has sold out & gone away, stripping the farm sadly, but I have secured already another tenant.

December 16: Tuesday.

I am home from Philad. where I went this morning to see the great welcome to Genl. Grant on his return from a visit around the world and to the great rulers of every

nation nearly. The procession was 4 hours in passing before us. Follen and myself went down in the 7:45 A.M. train. I got off at Columbia Av. and went to 2041 N. 13<sup>th</sup> St. to see a Lady who had sent for me to attend to her. Then went to Bertha Yocums [sic], from there to Follen's Law office, S.E. corner 8<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut Sts., where I found daughter Frannie Day, Little Frannie & Thomas Yocom, Bertha's children, and also little Bertha Yocom. I had almost missed to speak of her. A number of other persons were there. We had an excellent view from the five large windows (up stairs) of the office. I can give no idea scarcely of the miles of soldiers who passed before us, and of the miles of citizens with the insignia of their occupations and industries and manufactories, and above all, of the miles upon miles of spectators who occupied every available foot of ground, or of pavement, every window, door recess, & balcony from ground floor to attic.

The progress of Genl. Grant in his travels for 2 ½ years is without precedent. Everywhere he has been, [he was] received with the greatest enthusiasm, lauded with every honor, and now this last ovation is one which has never been excelled in any city in the world.

I got home to early supper not at all weary, though in my 76<sup>th</sup> year. Wife and daughter Mary did not go; the former did not wish to, and the latter was not well.

December 26: Friday.

Have had no spell of palpitation for a month and four days, not since 22d. of Nov. until today, and it lasted only half an hour. I cannot account for the change, perhaps I have had more leisure, not so many patients, nor other hurrying work.

December 28: Sunday.

During the past week, "Mother" and Mary were in Philad. buying for Christmas, and when this morning came, we got them all around. Follen, John, William, Ann and Martha were all recipients of useful things, and I too got my share, and Mother got a nice "Cabinet" from all the children, and Mary also got presents from the girls and Follen and our gd. children, &c.

Christmas has become the Gift-day, all through, or rather, through all respectable society, and it is a good thing. It produces kind feelings in the giver and in the receiver. It is a time for forgiveness and gratitude. Parents and children are all happier for the kind generous feelings which it brings with it., more due to the fashion or customs of Society than from any reverence for the day, or accord of events believed to have transpired on it. I had better have said happened (instead of transpired).

I have written several letters this evening, and as I have a bad cold, will soon (9 P.) retire.

## 1880

January 12: Monday.

We have had very mild weather for weeks., Temp. about 45° to 55°, night & day. It has really been an unusually mild winter. People at their work with coats off every day. We could have ploughed sod very nicely.



I have been having iron ore dug by four parties. All found it on the first trial, that is in the first shaft. I hope to get out more than a hundred dollars worth per month, when they all begin to take out. Last month one had 16. I got 55 cts. per ton ground rent.

I have had a very extensive correspondence since last writing, getting and sending letters every day.

Time has passed very pleasantly because I have been so greatly and usefully employed.

January 26: Monday.

During the last two weeks, I have practiced a good deal, have had several cases of Typhoid Fever to treat. They have been ill a month (4 in one house), but are now all convalescent. I have done a great deal of other practice.

We continue to hear from Joseph & wife & dgt. every week, by letter from them. They are still at Fort Yuma, Arizona, where Joseph finds a good practice outside the Barracks, yielding about \$110 in cash per month. So he can save all his salary, which is about 2,600 Dols. a year.

Genl. Grant has passed down through the Southern States and is now in Cuba. Everywhere he has been rec'd. with great honors, but I am sure his chances for the Presidency are lessening daily. There has been great trouble in Maine since the election there. It appears that the Republicans had elected the majority of the Legislature, but the Democratic Governor Garcelon and his aids threw out sufficient of the returns, for slight informalities, to seat a sufficient number of Democrats, to give the Fusionists (Democrats & Green backers) a majority. Both parties then went on to organize a Legislature for each. It seemed as though there would be a conflict of arms, but the Governor was induced to [by] some patriotic men to submit the case, a series of questions, to the Supreme Court, which were decided by it in favor of the Republicans, and against the "Counting out" for trifling informalities. Still the Democrats have resisted up to the present time, but one after another of those who had usurped the places of regularly elected Republicans have slid away until now, it seems as if we would soon have peace.

The papers have been filled daily with accounts of defalcations, embezzlements, murders, suicides & all sorts of misdemeanors, several of which were perpetrated by Ministers of the Gospel.

January 30: Friday.

The Hospital at Norristown. The Trustees have all been appointed. The Superintendents of the other hospitals, and all the Med. Assoc. of Superintendents are very fearful that the Trustees will appoint some one not educated in their special mode. They have therefore gotten up a petition to the Board not to appoint any one who has not rec'd. special instruction in a hospital for Insane. To check-mate them, I have written to Gov. Hartranft, Dr. E. G. Martin, Dr. Kern and Mr. Addison May, all trustees, giving my views of the necessity to have a man who has not been educated in one of their hospitals, but one who is skillful from long practice in ordinary diseases. From Gov. Hartranft [former Governor Hartranft and at this time Chairman of the Board of Trustees] and Dr. Martin I have rec'd. replies, which I paste in here. Some articles have appeared in the Philad. papers, to which I have written a reply, which I may publish, and if so will also paste here.

February 1: Sunday

“Mother” has gone to Germantown to spend a few days with her sister, Priscilla Wistar and Hannah Bacon. Follen went this morning to spend the day there. Mary & myself have been at home all day, writing & reading, cataloguing the letters of last year, and putting them away, and answering letters that have come within two days.

February 18: Wednesday.

About 150, mostly invited guests, assembled at 11 A.M. Dr. L. W. Read & Gov. Hoyt, called at “Uncle William’s” (brother William’s) as they were on their way and offered me a seat with them. I declined as I had agreed to go over with my nephew Ellwood Corson, M.D., son of my deceased brother George. We got there almost as soon as they did, and went with them through one of the many buildings, and just then the train came to the hospital, with Commissioners and Trustees and invited friends; among them was our late Minister to England, John Welsh of Philad. and a number of other gentlemen. The ceremony of transferring (to the Board of Trustees of the State Hospital for the Insane, “according to law, the land and buildings”) was over in less than an hour, and then we had an excellent collation after which we parted for our different homes.

March 2: Tuesday.

Wife has gone to Philad. and Mary and myself are keeping house. Mary will scarcely allow me to claim partnership in it, as I have been away all day at my business, seeing patients and other matters. Since noon we went to Norristown to rent one of my houses, got back at four P.M. and had to go at once to Conshohocken to see Mayor Mauck’s son and to Howard Wood’s to see his wife.

The iron business is very brisk and Conshohocken is pouring out steam & smoke enough to make a fog over the town. We sent about 150 tons of ore last month, which at 60 cts. per ton ground rent will bring \$90.00

I rec’d. a letter from brother William this evening to say that if I could not come to Norristown, Dr. L. W. Read, my nephew, would likely come down to see me about some influence I may exert in his favor, upon the Trustees of the Hospital for the Insane. He has fear he may not be appointed Superintendent.

Follen has gone to spend the evening with the family of Mr. White, our neighbor from Philad. Mary is crocheting and Ann, Martha and our boy Jacob Calvin Hart are in the Kitchen. The latter two, judging by the laughter, enjoying themselves well.

Politicians are growing warm. The prominent Republican candidates for the Presidency are Grant, Sherman & Blaine; of the Democrats, Tilden and Bayard, and I may add, Genl. Hancock, a boy of our own County.

Papers, pamphlets and letters come to me daily in such numbers that I find it irksome to read and answer as I used to do. I find I cannot continue to read and write as formerly. I weary, a condition to which I was a stranger for half a century of my professional life. But it is no wonder for I am in my 76<sup>th</sup> year, and my daily practice with the sick is very considerable. I have almost finished my S. Fever and Diphtheria papers, within a few weeks, and have had a great deal of medical correspondence.

March 3: Wednesday.

At 4 A.M. [I was] called to Howard Wood's. I was there laboring under palpitation. It had occurred three or four hours before while asleep. It of course awakened me, and I had not slept from that time. I felt horribly at being called, but as I was engaged to attend Mrs. Wood in labor, I got up and dressed myself, but was so giddy and oppressed, and weak in the limbs, that I had to lie down in the dining room for a few minutes. I finally got into the carriage, but the exertion which I had undergone had sent the blood to my head, so that I felt as if the back of the head & neck were greatly congested. The back of the neck pained me greatly, so that to keep my head erect, I had to hold my left hand back of my head and raise it up while I drove with my right hand. When I got to Mr. Wood's, I walked up the walk to the door and rang the bell. As they did not instantly respond, I sat down on the marble step, and as they were several minutes in coming, this rest greatly relieved me, so that I walked up stairs without any difficulty that could be noticed by Mr. Wood. There was as it happened no need for me to stay, so I returned home. I slept none this morning. Just about breakfast time, it went off, so I then went to my business. Visited several patients, but just after my return at noon, the palpitation came on again and lasted me till nearly five o'clock.

March 4: Thursday.

Called again at 4 o'clock this morning to see Mrs. Wood. As I was in good order, having had a nights rest, I went down and in two hours, we had another young son born. Practiced all day and felt pretty well.

March 5: Friday.

Practiced in forenoon. Went to Norristown to rent my house there after dinner. At Norristown I heard from brother William that the Trustees of the Norristown Hospital have determined to carry out my views as respects the taking away, from the Superintendent's usual duties, those which relate to other matters than medical and hygienic. This is quite a disappointment to my nephew, Dr. Lewis W. Read who wishes to be Superintendent on the old plan, to have exclusive charge of everything, farm and all.

March 9: Tuesday.

Went on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M. from Kensington Depot to New Hope, which I reached at about 8 P.M. Found Dr. Richard Foulke & family and his mother Mrs. Harriet Corson Foulke all well. I had been sent for privately, by letter from Harriet, to see if I could persuade Dr. Richard to abstain from "drinking." He has latterly, indeed for a year or more [been] drinking to excess at times and has lost so much of his practice as to almost deprive them of a living. On Sunday morning I had a long talk with him on the subject. In the afternoon we went to see John P. Williams and family, about four miles below N. Hope. It was a rainy, gloomy time, but we had a pleasant afternoon and staid to an excellent tea. As we rode home in the rain and darkness, we had another good talk on the subject. I tried to encourage him by showing him that he had great aptitude for the practice of his profession, and assuring him that even those families who had left him were sorry that they were compelled to do it, and would return to him as soon as they should be convinced of his reformation. He is very poor, his carriages

scarcely fit to use, his horse unfit for a physician & himself but poorly supplied with clothing. He is one of the most pleasing physicians in a sick room I have ever met with, and beloved by the people, but the days of drunken Doctors have passed away. I told him if he would refrain utterly from drink, I would send him a handsome Doctor's Carriage. He needs now to keep sober and then to be fitted out with a handsome carriage and good horse & harness.

I got home Monday evening. I forgot to say that I attended Presbyterian Church on Sunday morning and heard Rev. Augustus Stoddiford, son of my old friend Rev. Peter Stoddiford, preach. After the services were over, he came down to see me, as did Mr. Welsh and others. On our way back to Dr. Foulke's, we called to see Mary and Caroline Lambert, poor girls! Now nearly 70 years of age, all these fifty two years that I have known them living there by themselves, unmarried. They are now old, lame, hard of hearing (the one), the other shaking with palsy, and yet, they travel twice on Sunday over to church and back again, and so their lives work on, and they seem to be as happy as the rest of us. All, or nearly all the other people whom I knew in N. Hope 52 years ago are dead. Hiram Scarborough is still there attending the bridge-gate. He is also a member of the Legislature. I had a pleasant talk with him.

There has been quite an easterly snow today. Therm. about 28 all day. I did pretty well [regarding] practice.

March 15: Monday.

Today I attended the University Medical Commencement, at the Academy of Music, in Philad. The house was filled to its utmost capacity. The faculty and graduates were dressed in "Gown & Oxford Cap." The first time they were used by our University people was last year. Professor Joseph Leidy, the great Naturalist and the Prof. of Anatomy, did not wish to wear them and he was therefore excused. He appeared in Citizen's clothes. I asked him why he preferred to do so, and he replied that he "thought there ought to be one to stand up for the truth."

While standing there, before going into the Academy, we had a very interesting conversation in relation to his new studies of the "lower organisms," the Rhizopods, &c.

As soon as the degrees were conferred, Dr. Joseph Parrish [sic] asked me to step out onto the "Green Room" to have a talk about the Hospital affairs. I had written him that if Dr. Read, my nephew, declined to apply for the place of Chief Physician, that I would like him to be a candidate. So after we had interchanged views, we went down to see Ex-Governor Hartranft, now Post Master in Philad., and had a talk with him. We separated before 3 P.M., and I did some little matters, and then made for home; arrived in due time.

March 17: Wednesday

Yesterday was very rainy, but I was riding all day, the forenoon in practice and in the afternoon, went to Penllyn to arrange matters with the farmer, and visited Mr. Rex on my way home.

March 21: Sunday.

The weather has been very disagreeable since Thursday, Sheelah's Day<sup>x</sup>, and I have practiced a good deal, and done a good many other things. Our men have had, too,

very poor weather for digging ore, but they are very earnest & industrious in the attempt to make a "big month."

Last evening, Jaywood Lukens & Susan (our daughter) came up bringing with them little Frannie and Thomas Yocom, who came up to spend Sunday (today) and return to Philad. to school at Race St., the Quaker School, in the morning. Hannah Roberts & her brother, Hiram, were also here, and as little "Bertie" Yocom has been with us several days, we had a pleasant evening. Though daughter Mary went to stay with her sister in Philad. for a couple of weeks, and so the entertain[ment] fell on Mother, but she seemed to be able for it, as she is always good at "entertaining."

Just after supper, Friday, as Mother, Follen, Mary & self were sitting in the parlor as is our wont after supper, I was attacked, and it cont'd. till 3 on Saturday morning; and as I got not a wink of sleep, I hoped to sleep yesterday, but business prevented me, so I slept well last night. I can't sleep well while I have palpitation, for I can only lie on my left side, and it is an unusual position for me, and if I take Morph. to make it go off sooner, I can't sleep at all, the morph. making me quite wakeful. It is strange how suddenly it comes & goes.

April 10: Saturday.

Since writing the above, I have been busy in practicing and writing and reading on medicine and keeping up a heavy correspondence. Have also been at Harrisburgh to the meeting of the Board of Trustees. For nearly a week I was quite unable and was just getting well before my trip to Harrisburgh. While there and after two hours being on my feet examining the hospital, I was taken with palpitation, but it only lasted about half an hour.

Today Bertha and four children were here to spend the day. We had a very pleasant time. I came down from Harrisburgh to Reading with my friend Dr. Traill Green, and at the latter place, just as I stepped in the door of the parlor-car, I was seized around the body and fairly hugged by my friend Dr. Halberstadt of Pottsville, who took me to several of his friends and introduced me to them as his "best friend." We had a very pleasant time coming down. Got home safely at about 6 P.M.

April 24: Saturday.

Since my last writing, I have had two pretty long spells of palpitation, one more than a week ago about 8 hours, and one which ended yesterday at 2 P.M. of 22 hours. With those exceptions, I have been very well, have done a good deal of practice, and read, and [was] reading and [had] an extensive correspondence.

I am trying to secure the appointment of female physicians to our State Hospitals and this causes me to do a good deal of letter writing. The Trustees of the Hospital at Harrisburgh have agreed to appoint whom I recommend, and a special meeting has been called to meet June 4<sup>th</sup> to arrange for the installing of the women physicians.

A colored cadet at West Point was found a couple or more weeks ago, bound and almost insensible from injuries inflicted by three persons, at night. The investigation has been going on, by officers there, all leagued with the Cadets, to try to prove that Whittaker, the Cadet, did it himself. About a week since, the Sec. of the Army sent a Government Lawyer there to assist in the examination, and now it looks as though some of the Cadets who were very eager witnesses to show that Whittaker could have done,

and did it himself, are under grave suspicions. Young George Burnett, the first witness, son of our neighbor at Spring Mill, is now under the gravest suspicion.

May 7: Friday.

Wife had gone to Philad. in the morning. At noon Dr. Shrawder & ch[ild] came here just as I had finished eating my dinner entirely alone, an unusual thing. I had dinner for them, then talked outside and they went away just a 2 P.M. I had my carriage geared and was ready to step into it when I was attacked by palpitation. It lasted me all night.

May 8: Saturday.

I rose after a sleepless night and came down to breakfast, walked out to the barn, and in coming in got giddy and weak in the legs, laid down on the lounge, and in a few minutes it went off. Then I was well enough again. I took soon after getting it, 20 grs. Bro[mide] Pot[assium] every hour till I took a drachm. At 8 P.[M.] took  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr. morph., at 4 A.M. on Saturday  $\frac{3}{8}$ <sup>th</sup> more. Am getting concerned for fear these attacks will continue to increase in frequency and duration.

May 13: Thursday.

Yesterday I attended a meeting of our Society at Pottstown and opened the discussion on Diphtheria. Dr. Shrawder was anxious to go but had no money, so I took him along and paid his fare & his dinner. We had a pretty good meeting, though very few of the Doctors of Pottstown were there. Had two calls to attend to when I reached home. Spent an hour in Norristown consulting with Dr. Mary Stinson about what we would need to prepare for her accommodation at Harrisburgh when we shall install her as Chief physician to the female department of the hospital for the Insane.

Wife has not been well for two or three weeks, has had a severe cold, &c.

The gd. rent for Iron ore (157 tons at 60 cts.) = \$94.20

May 22: Saturday.

Since the 8<sup>th</sup> I have not had palpitation at all, but have been very active and able to attend to my business. There are but few sick, and I do not care to attend some who come. So I have leisure every afternoon to read, & fix up my correspondence, of which I am having much, so many females applying to get places as physician and assistant physician in our three hospitals, Harrisburgh, Norristown & Warren; the last two have never yet been in operation, and we want to start them on my plan.

Yesterday the Trustees of the Norristown [hospital] appointed a male Chief, who is not to be a Superintendent in the old way, but simply a chief physician. They also appointed Dr. Mary Stinson, but on the representation of her brother that she was sick and really unable, it was cancelled.

Dr. Bennett [was] appointed Chief of the female department of the Norristown Hospital for Insane, the first woman in the world to occupy that position.

June 9: Wednesday.

I went yesterday at 4 P.M. to New Hope to see Dr. Richard Foulke, our nephew and grand son of Dr. Richard D. Corson, who after promising me most faithfully not to drink liquor any more, and who has kept his word for two months, has recently been

drinking badly for a week. I had paid \$22.00 to have his carriage nicely done up for him, and he seemed to be doing very well, and had written me from time to time that he would continue his total abstinence from strong drink. He knew a week ago that I would likely be up, and he quit at once. So I found him all right, and he had no idea that I knew of his fall and was greatly surprised when I spoke to him about it. I had a serious talk with him and left there at 8:22 A.M. this morning and was at Follen's office, 5<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut, at 10:05 A.M. What quick work!

From the 8<sup>th</sup> of May until the 6<sup>th</sup> of June I had no spell of palpitation, and then it went off in 8 hours without medicine.

June 10: Thursday.

Yesterday the 9<sup>th</sup>, after a fierce struggle during a whole week, the Republican Convention at Chicago nominated Garfield of Ohio as the Candidate for the Presidency. The strife was between Genl. Grant, who had served 8 years as President, and James G. Blaine, a Senator. For more than thirty ballots, of 756 delegates, they each held their own, with slight variations up & down, and a few were scattered on others. Garfield not having a single vote, and yet all finally went to Garfield.

June 13: Sunday.

Went to see brother William to talk with him about the appointment of the women physicians to the hospitals of Warren and Harrisburgh, he being one of the Commissioners, who have the power to appoint at Warren, and I one of the Trustees at Harrisburgh

After dinner I spent two hours writing letters to Doctors, &c.

On the last day of May, my friend Mrs. Julia Mulvany, the daughter of Dr. Joseph Leedom, and sister to Dr. Edwin C. Leedom, died after an illness of only a few days, at the residence on the upper part, West side, of Norristown. She was an amiable woman, one of my earliest friends. Too much given to fashion perhaps. She had been much away from home the past few years, in Europe and Florida, &c.

It is now 4 P.M. and I hear daughter Mary prepare the table for supper, while "Ann" is cooking it. "Mother", wife, is on the piazza reading and the gd. children, Bertha Day, and Georgie Yocom are running about the yard, shouting and playing and having "lots of fun." Bertha Day is nearly 5 years old and Georgie Yocom younger.

July 10: Saturday.

It is now just a month since I last wrote. Within that time I have done much. Have written to a good many applicants for the position of Chief female physician to the hospitals at Harrisburgh and Norristown hospitals, and have had numerous replies. We had exchanged many letters with Joseph & Ada who are at Ft. Yuma, Arizona. Have attended to my practice, gotten in our harvest and hay, &c., &c.

Frannie and her children are here. Wife has not been quite well during this time, and I have been better than during the month before. Indeed, I may say I have been very well.

As the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lunatic Hospital at Harrisburgh was to take place on July 8<sup>th</sup> at 9 A.M., I went up the evening before, getting there at 8 ½ o'clock. At 9, Mr. Gross & Mr. Gilbert came to see me, to have a talk about what we were to do next day. Mr. Gilbert had been to Danville Hospital, and Dr. Schultz, the

Superintendent, and Dr. Curwen, the Supt. at Harrisburgh, was with him, and they had impressed him with the belief that it would be wrong to have a Chief, an assistant they thought would be enough. So Mr. Gross during our conversation, mentioned the feelings of Mr. Gilbert (who had before always been supporting me ably) and said also that Mr. Lamberton was of the same opinion. I reasoned with Mr. Gilbert about it, and shook his convictions greatly. They left and I went to bed somewhat worried. It looked to me as though I might readily fail to secure the election of a female as chief physician of the female insane. I had slept but little the two previous nights, and hoped now for a good rest, but sleep came not near me until almost morning. At 8 ½ next morning Messieurs Gross, Gilbert, Epply & Lamberton called on a carriage for me and we went over. Drs. Atlee & Green were there all night, and as Mr. Pomeroy and Dr. Calder would not be present, we proceeded to business. After a couple of hours spent in hearing & acting on reports, Mr. Lamberton asked whether I had as per appointment selected a Chief physician for the place. I had taken a great deal of trouble to be prepared for them, and so I drew out my packages of Credentials in favor of Dr. Abbie Cleaves of Davenport, Iowa, & for Dr. Anita Tyng of Providence, R. Island, also for two others as assistants. The Secretary was about to read these, when the President, Dr. Atlee, asked him to wait a moment as he had a paper which he wished Dr. Corson to read and, if he thought well of it, to sign. Drs. Atlee and Green & myself had been appointed a Committee to report on the medical management of the Insane, as we found it in that hospital. It had been a whole year & more, and we had not reported, and this paper drawn by Dr. Atlee purported to be that report. It was a strange commendation of the fitness and their valuable services of the medical men, and ended by declaring our belief that in view of the good condition of the hospital and the high character of the physicians, we had come to the conclusion that to elect a woman to take charge of the female insane would be a great risk, and we would, therefore, think it unadvisable to take any further action in reference to it. When I had finished reading it, I at once declined to sign it, and made a short speech, asking that the Trustees would not go back on the object for which we had so long labored [and] called to their minds that less than two years ago, the eight trustees out of nine appealed to the Legislature to afford us the opportunity then before us of electing a competent female to have medical charge of the insane. Dr. Atlee had said that himself and Dr. Traill Green were ready to sign the report. This greatly surprised me as Dr. Green had always been nobly supporting me. When I had finished, Mr. Lamberton took the floor and boldly proclaimed his desire to elect a Chief. I then felt assured that we would succeed. The credentials were then read in favor of the two named, Dr. Cleaves and Dr. Tyng. So strong were these from the Governor of Iowa, from the Pres[ident] of Iowa University, from three Professors of Iowa Med. College, from the Trustees of the Insane hospital of Iowa, and from its Superintendent, that they were all ready to give their votes. Mr. Lamberton asked me after Dr. Tyng's were read, which of them was my choice? As Dr. Cleaves had had 3 years experience in a hospital for the insane, and as Dr. Tyng did not much care to take [a] position at Harrisburgh if she could get the situation at Warren, I chose Dr. Cleaves, and she was at once elected for 3 years at \$1,800 per year.

Our business through, we took the Cars at Harrisburgh (Dr. Green & myself) at 4 P.M. for home. A minute after I took my seat, I was attacked by palpitation, but I said nothing to Dr. Green, and sat "bolt upright" all the way home. I could not recline



without feeling oppressed, so got along pretty comfortably. Was met at 8 P.M. when I arrived at Bridgeport and was soon whisked home. The palpitation cont'd. till next day at day light.

July 17: Saturday.

Evening. Yesterday I visited the Doctors at the new Hospital at Norristown. The Chief lady physician is Dr. Alice Bennett, the assistant Miss Margaret Kugler. The male chief Dr. Chase, the assistant Dr. Jordan. The ladies seem happy in their new situation and were strong in their praise of my efforts to give situations to females. Dr. Chase, too, seems well satisfied that he has no charge of the farm and outdoor matters, which was brought about by my report to the State Society, accepted by the Trustees as the proper plan.

Today I wrote a paper for the Public Ledger of Philad., on the subject of the new departure in hospital management, which will be published in a day or two likely.

Frannie & her children are staying with us, and her husband, Richard Day, comes every Saturday and stays till Monday. We write to Joseph every Sunday and receive a letter from him once every week.

August 9: Monday.

Yesterday I went to Harrisburgh, leaving Bridgeport at 4:41 P.M. arrived at 8:20 P.[M.]. At 9 P.[M.] met the Trustees in my room. At 9:30 we all went to the Parlor to see Dr. Garver, a female physician who wishes to be an assistant physician in the hospital, and whom I had invited to be there that evening.

Today we went to the hospital to arrange for accommodating the female physicians with proper quarters. The local Committee who had it in charge, were not able to arrange it with Dr. Curwen, who does not like to have a woman chief. So they sent for me as I am Chairman of the Com[mittee]. We selected rooms, and after dinner, I left for home where I arrived at 6 P.[M.] and found them all well.

The article signed "Observer" and written by me, has caused some ladies in Philad. and Del. Co. to take active measures to have the Governor appoint a lady to the vacancy which will occur in the Board of Public Charities in Dec. next. They propose to have a meeting to get up a petition to the Gov., and they have asked me to be present. I have consented to go and, at their suggestion, have named a day between the 18<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> of August, as one which would suit me, and have today rec'd. an invitation from the Northampton Co. Medical Soc. to be with it at their meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of the present month, and the Board has named the 26<sup>th</sup> for its meeting at Harrisburgh. So I shall be kept pretty busy with these meetings and my every day duties.

I have written a long letter to son Joseph this afternoon. Wife is in Philad. today. There was a fearful accident on the rail road at May's Landing, New Jersey, last evening, Wednesday Evening, in which many were killed and a great many scalded and otherwise injured. The disaster by Steamboats & rail roads have been fearful this year.

The meeting spoken of at the top of the page will be held, I am informed by a letter rec'd. today from Grace-Anna Lewis, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of this month, at Media. I can return, she says, the same afternoon, so as to take the Car for home at 9<sup>th</sup> & Green Sts. at 8 P.M.

Daughter Susan says she will go with me. This is the beginning of a movement which will, I think, result in having both sexes represented in Boards of Trustees.

August 17: Tuesday.

Death of my long-time friend, Daniel Longacre of Norristown, Pa. He dropped dead while in apparent health on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August. I was at his funeral on the 12<sup>th</sup>, where were a great many people of about his age, 68, and many of us much older. I will be 76, if I live until Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>.

This evening Helen brought an Artist just arrived from France to see us. We are told that she is engaged to marry him. She has not said so to us. He appears to be a German or a Frenchman, I cannot decide. I have not talked much with him; can scarcely tell what he is as relates to intelligence. He is a domestic appearing man, with pleasant manners, about 36 years of age, I judge.

Rec'd. a long and interesting letter from Joseph today, from Ft. Yuma. He is having pretty large hopes of his Gold mine. He is collecting information for Clarence King in relation to Law as it existed among the Indians in earlier times, for a gentleman who is looking up that subject. King is the Head of the Scientific explorers of the West and when he returns to Yuma, is to go with Joseph to see his claim.

Joseph is also getting from the Indians a history of their midwifery practice for a physician who is looking up the practice which has prevailed among unscientific peoples throughout the world.

Rec'd. several letters from other parties today.

Last Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>, I took wife & Mary Stinson, M.D. to see the management by the women physicians in the new Hospital at Norristown. We were delighted with it. Dr. Kugler<sup>xi</sup> took us through it, and showed us everything. They seem to think they owe their situations there to me alone. And that is true enough, for I alone got the Law which authorized the employment of women as physicians in hospitals for the management of the Insane females.

August 24: Tuesday.

It is simply surprising how many letters I have rec'd. this month, and how many I have written, and how many articles of my own, under the title of Observer & H.C. I have sent off to prominent men & women.

Today at 4:41, I expect to leave Bridgeport for Harrisburgh, to meet the Board of Trustees who have been concerned to meet our appointee, Dr. M. Abbie Cleaves of Iowa, and with her arrange for her accommodation in the hospital. She and most of the trustees are to meet me at the Lochiel this evening at 9 o'clock. I have had two palpitations within four days, and several threatenings which were unpleasant. There have been several very sudden deaths lately, and yesterday I saw in the papers that Lin Bartholomew, son of my former friend Benj. Bartholomew, dropped dead at Atlantic City. So I feel that I am all the time in peril. I have been more than four years in filling this book. Shall I ever fill another like this? No one can tell. I will be 76 years of age if I live till the 8<sup>th</sup> day of October.

October 6: Wednesday.

It has been more than a month since I last wrote. Have been quite busy with

various matters since. Have attended a conference at Media, gotten up from a suggestion of mine made in an article in the Public Ledger, to have a woman, or more than one, on the Board of Public Charities. There were about 40 men and women there, and we resolved to act in the matter.

I also attended at the Permanent Exhibition Building a meeting of the Bi-Centennial Association to commemorate the founding of Pa. by Wm. Penn. We were to establish our two female physicians at the head of the Department of the Hospital at Harrisburgh for the Insane women. Dr. Cleaves came down from Harrisburgh to stay one night with us the day after I returned from there last time, then returned and took charge on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September. So now we have two women physicians at Norristown & two at Harrisburgh, and I may say all from my action before the State Medical Society. Before that no one thought of the possibility of having such an arrangement. I have, too, been made one of the "Council" of "the National Association for the Protection of the Insane and the prevention of Insanity." So has Mr. Lamberton, one of our Trustees, who is now President of Lehigh University. Only us two in Pa. are members of it, but I have written to a number of philanthropic men, who will probably join. My correspondence is very great now. I paste here an article by the Editor of the "Public Spirit."

**Editor's note:** The article, titled LETTER FROM THE LAZARETTO, reports on *The Closing of the Quarantine Season; The Export of Grain; The Work of Drs. William and Hiram Corson for Philanthropy; The Ten Dollar Standard of Greatness in Montgomery County*. Regarding Dr. Corson and Montgomery County, the author writes, "The work of Drs. William and Hiram Corson will live after them. A long life devoted to the advocacy of principles which, put in practice, are of such great value to mankind, surround the whitened hairs of Dr. Hiram Corson's head, as with a halo, as his years increase, as his life declines. What better way can a man mark the years of his life, than these gentlemen have done, through their devotion to works of charity and the public good."

"Montgomery County is fortunate, too, in numbering among its citizens, a member of the Board of Public Charities, to which much of the reform in prison and hospital management during the past ten years is due. I allude [to] Hon. George Bullock, of Conshohocken. W.T. R."

October 8: Friday.

My 77<sup>th</sup> birth day, but only 76 years old. This morning I sat down at breakfast without once having thought of this being my birth day, when it was brought to my mind by finding on my plate some small presents, a pair of fine Castor gloves from wife, a long paper cutter from Follen and [empty space] from Mary, who now constitute the family. Well! It does seem strange to me that I have lived to be seventy-six years of age, despite the fearful wear and tear of mind and body which I have had in this more than fifty years of laborious practice, with all its cares and anxieties, reverses and disappointments. But though I still live and enjoy life as much as ever I did, yet how great the change in my personal appearance!! Then, in all the bloom of youth, with its vigor, hope & elasticity, with hair and beard black almost as the Raven's wing; now, with age and my hair & beard white almost like the driven snow. But still, age has its charms,

and enjoying as I do, robust health, save an occasional attack of palpitation of heart, with good appetite and sound, refreshing sleep, I enjoy it greatly. Indeed Nature in her varied roles of summer & winter, spring and autumn, seem to me more beautiful and I appreciate her more than I did in the very hey-day of my life. It may be because the hopes and ambitions of youth have given way to the sober reflections of age, which prize things for their utility. To me the farmer is nobler than the Prince, his occupation nobler than that of a King.

I had an attack of palpitation at 7 ½ A.M. Had just finished breakfast; went off in less than two hours; practiced some today, read and wrote a good deal.

October 9: Saturday.

Practiced today, and wrote and read on medicine.

October 10: Sunday.

Did not go out at all. Two persons came for advice & medicine. Wife & myself staid at home all day. Follen & Mary went to Quaker Meeting. In the evening, Susan and her husband, Jaywood Lukens, spent the evening with us.

October 11: Monday.

Practiced some. Arranged and corrected parts of my manuscript on Scarlet Fever, which I desire to publish this winter.

In the evening went to Plymouth, to a political meeting, to be addressed by my young friend, Joseph E. Thropp. He made an excellent speech in favor of the Republican Party & its Candidate, James A. Garfield, United States Senator, a very noble man.

October 12: Tuesday.

Practiced all day, save a brief visit to Norristown with wife, to attend an audit, in which I was concerned.

This is the Election day in Indiana and Ohio, in which States the greatest efforts have been made by both political parties to secure the Presidential Electors. Every Telegraph Office will be crowded to-night, all over this vast country, for on the fate of Indiana, it is believed, the fate of the contest in the Union depends.

Our neighbors, "the Whites," are staying with us tonight. They are about leaving the Country, for Philad. and having sent their goods away, but yet having some business for tomorrow, they have to remain. So wife has invited them to stay with us.

October 13: Wednesday.

Nothing material today. I practiced, read, went to Norristown on business.

October 14: Thursday.

Follen came home in the evening with the report that his partner, Hon. John Goforth is dead. He has been in poor health a good while.

Follen's leg which was greatly hurt and one bone broken, is improving now very well, so that he can walk without a cane.

October 16: Saturday.

At 2 P.M. wife & myself went in the carriage to Laurel Hill, to see the graves of Edward and Caroline, and possibly to attend the funeral of Mr. John Goforth. We reached there at 3 ½ P.M. Spent some time at our lot. The "George Meade Post" had on Decoration Day planted a flag staff on Edward's Grave with a small flag, and also a wreath of flowers. The latter had faded, but the flag was still floating. How sad it seemed that these fine children, so smart and so loving and promising were thus early cut off, and there in the same lot was the grave of their grandmother, Tacie Foulke, who had nobly borne her part in life, raised a large family of children, and raised them well. She died in our house after an illness of several months from a liver affection.

After leaving the graves, we rode all around the upper, middle and lower Laurel Hills. The middle Laurel Hill ground, the last to come in use, is greatly changed from its appearance of ten years ago. It is splendid with its grand monuments of white marble. We failed to meet the funeral procession of Mr. Goforth, and at 4:10 P.M. left for home, where we arrived just after the sun had set.

Follen, who had been one of the Secretaries at the Meeting of Lawyers & Judges held in honor of Mr. Goforth, and who was also one of the Pall-bearers at the funeral, reached home at 7 P.M.

Read in the evening till bed-time, 10 P.M.

October 17: Sunday.

Went to see but one patient, Mrs. Ramsay, Abby Albertson formerly. Read in Journal of Insanity for Oct., looked over & arranged my S. Fever papers, which I am preparing to publish, wrote a letter to Joseph. In the evening, Helen (brother George's Daughter) and her "intended," Mr. Hovenden, took supper with us and staid till 9 P.M. He too is an artist, has been six years "abroad," and they first met in Paris, where both were pursuing studies. He now has a studio in N. York.

October 18: Monday.

Did but little practice. Wife and Follen went to the City. Mary and I were at home caring for things. Had a long letter from Joseph. He expects President Hays and party to be at Ft. Yuma soon. He was a few miles from the Fort to see an old resident (Mexican), who is talking of the Election, now approaching, says there is no vote but one in this township. Jos. is to send an Indian to him when the President is expected. He has never seen a President and wants to see one.

October 19: Tuesday.

After practicing in the forenoon, I went to the City at 1 P.M. I sent a man to Bertha's yesterday to paint and paper a part of the house, so went to see him while in the City. Just as I got to 9<sup>th</sup> & Green to return, was struck by the palpitation. It is now at bed time still on me. It was 4:30 P.M. when it began.

October 20: Wednesday.

Palpitation went off at 3:30 A.M. [It] was on me just 11 hours (eleven hours). I slept but little.

Have been pretty well and active today. Visited down at John Rex's. His daughter has been quite in great danger of Consumption; found her better; was also called to a young girl in Conshohocken, with deposit of tubercles, a beautiful child, only eleven years old.

Got a letter from "Aunt Harriet." Dick is drinking sadly. She wants me to come up. Wrote letters to her, Dr. Stewart of Erie, and Dr. Detweiler of Williamsport and sent them the Circular of the National Society for the Protection of the Insane and the Prevention of Insanity and asked them to become members.

October 22: Friday.

This morning at 7, I left Spring Mill for New Hope. Harriet Foulke had been writing me every few days for some time to come up to talk with her son Dr. Richard Foulke, to try to get him to stop drinking liquor. He has become quite drunken and consequently quite poor, so that his family, wife & children, are not well cared for. I arrived there at 9:30 A.M. and walked over. I had a free talk with him, but it was very one-sided, he refusing at first to answer my questions. But I continued a kindly unreserved talk for quite a long time, sometimes reproaching him, and then trying to encourage him. He was much & favorably impressed by it, and promised me that he would stop the drinking entirely, and I promised to aid him by sending him medical Journals & Books and also whatever medicine he would want for a year in his practice. I left there in the rain at 2:10 P.M. and reached home by the 5:10 P.[M.] train from Philad. in which Follen came. Mary met us at the Sp. Mill Station.

October 23: Saturday.

Called early, before day-light, to a case of obstetrics. They had been for me yesterday. It was a lingering case. After waiting three hours, delivered with the forceps. All [went] well. Practiced throughout the day. Rec'd. letters & papers & pamphlets and wrote several letters.

October 28: Thursday.

I have just arrived at home from Harrisburgh where I had been attending the Board of Trustees meeting. I left Bridgeport at 4:41 P.[M.] on Wednesday, got to Harrisburgh at 8:30. There Dr. M. Abbie Cleaves, Dr. Gross, Mr. Eppley and Mr. Bailey met me to talk over our hospital business and arrange the programme for next day. This morning while at breakfast at the Lochiel, Dr. Detweiler of Williamsport, one of the trustees of the Danville hospital came in to breakfast with me. He had come down in the night by my request. After breakfast we all went over to the hospital. This was my first visit since the women physicians took place, or charge there. We passed through the Wards, led by Doctor Cleaves, the woman chief, and all were delighted with the improvement which she has effected in two months. When the Board had convened and finished the routine business, we considered the propriety of putting in a new male Superintendent, because of the opposition of the old one, Dr. Curwen, to the introduction by us of women physicians to have charge of the female insane. Before we had time to decide the case, some had to leave. We therefore adjourned to meet on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of November to appoint a new Superintendent.

November 2: Tuesday.

Since my return from Harrisburgh, I have been greatly engaged in practice and other matters.

Yesterday I spent at the County Alms House, selecting by order of the Board of Public Charities, the pauper insane who ought to be brought to the new Hospital for Insane at Norristown. Today, the end of the political struggle which has been going on for two or three months has come to an end. It is now 9 P.M. and the counting of votes for Hancock and Garfield is going on. I suppose we will have partial returns to-morrow morning.

November 4: Thursday.

9 o'clock. Yesterday morning when Follen and myself reached Conshohocken. We saw by the City papers which we got, that Garfield had carried every Northern State except New Jersey. The Republicans were jubilant and the Democrats hardly to be seen. Today we hear by the papers that Pa. & N. York gave large majorities for the Republican Electors, and even the County ticket has succeeded, with the exception of the Treasurer, who lost by only five votes.

I practiced hard all day yesterday and until noon today. This afternoon, I went to Norristown with my petition to the Court, to the Judge, to have 9 Insane brought from the Alms House to the Hospital. Dr. Knipe & myself signed it. I also visited Dr. Mary Stinson and had a talk about our reforms, and laid plans for operating the coming winter, on the Legislature, for a law authorizing the appointment of women Trustees.

Mary went to the City yesterday. Follen staid on this evening to make a call with Anna Bacon, his cousin. Will leave for home in the 10 P.M. train and Matt will meet him a[t] Spring Mill.

I have read a great deal in the new medical journals which arrived today. Helen Corson and her Niece Caty came to spend the night here. We have had a very pleasant evening.

We have just finished getting our corn, about 300 Bushels from 4 acres.

December 30: Thursday.

I have been, since last writing, three times to Harrisburgh, and today we elected Dr. Gerhard Superintendent in place of Dr. Curwen who has been there 30 years nearly; his 30 years will expire Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> when the new one will take his place. It produced quite a stir among his friends, but we thought it was time to have one who would attend better to his duties. Our women doctors we found had done well.

## 1881

January 1: Saturday.

New Years Day 1881. It has been almost three months since I last wrote in this book, and in that time much has happened. I have had a few palpitations, some of them trying enough, lasting from 16 to 26 hours, but else I have been very well. I have been three times to Harrisburgh to attend meetings of the Board of Trustees of the State Hospital there, and only last Thursday, Dec. 30th, we elected a Superintendent in place of the one whose 30 years of service will expire Feb. 14, 1880 [1881]. It produced some

stir among his friends, but we felt that it was time to have a man who would attend better to the duties. Our women Doctors we found doing admirably. We elected the assistant physician Superintendent in place of Dr. Curwen.

Death of Ann White who had lived with us forty years.

A very unexpected event occurred in our family on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December (1880). Our good help "Ann," who had been with us forty years, save about seven or eight weeks, and who had been in Father-in law's family about 13 years before she came to us, Ann White, died suddenly. She had not been well for a few weeks, with a cold, but still kept about till within two weeks of her death, when she went to bed. In less than two weeks she came down and sat in the dining room with Mrs. Corson & Mary. She slept well that night, came down next day again, and in the afternoon passed her time away by sewing a little, took a good supper and went to bed. Mary had preceded her with the warming pan and had warmed the bed. Our other girl went with Ann. She partly undressed, then laid down, said she "would like a warm brick to her feet, that they were somewhat cold." The girl went to get it. Directly, Mary, our daughter, saw one of her feet sticking out of the bed. She spoke to her about it. As she made no answer, she looked at her, and, as she had a very strange appearance, she called to us. We both hastened up, and she lived only about a minute after we reached her bedside. It was so sudden, but a few minutes before, walking up stairs and talking and then in a moment as it were [was] dead. We could hardly realize it. She was a good woman. Had been greatly loved by all our children. We had invested her earnings for her, so that at her death, she left nearly, if not quite \$3000. We buried her in Plymouth Meeting (Friends) Grave Yard. For what else I have to say of 1880's doings and events, see next Journal.

Hiram Corson

I am now in my 77<sup>th</sup> year. We are having a fierce winter. Now for nearly three weeks it has been very cold & much snow. I have done a good deal of practice.

In going to Harrisburgh on last Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>, I was struck by a palpitation before we reached Coatesville on the Pa. R. Road. I had it all the way up, but I just sat still and bore it. There I took a carriage to the Lochiel, where I arrived at 5 P.M. After supper the trustees came to my room, and we talked over the programme for next day. All (5 of us) agreed that we would elect a new man to the Superintendency. Engaged in this talk, my palpitation left me before they went away. So I had a good comfortable night. Next morning, with the Thermometer at 8° below Zero, we were taken in the sleigh to the hospital. Dr. Green had been afraid to face the storm of the day before. Mr. Gilbert had Rheumatism, and Dr. R. A. Lamberton's mother was lying dead. So there were only Dr. Atlee, Mr. Eppley. Mr. Gross, Mr. Pomeroy and myself. Arrived at the hospital we went straight to the business and elected our new Superintendent. Afterwards we all assembled in Dr. Cleaves office and had a talk with the newly elected Sup't., his assist., and her two women Doctors, Dr. Cleaves & Dr. Garver, then [went] back to the Lochiel before one P.M., took dinner, then to the Cars at 1:45 P.M. [Was] at home by 7 P.[M.], Follen meeting me at Bridgeport with the sleigh, and "Matt" to drive. Wife had been very uneasy about me, for I had left Philad. in a fearful snow storm. But I really got along very well. They always give me the best kind of accommodation at the Lochiel.



January 9: Sunday.

I have been doing a good deal of practice lately. Have also written two long articles on "Hospitals for the Insane," for the Norristown Herald, which have been interesting to the readers of that paper. Have also written a paper on Pneumonia and its treatment for the Medical and Surgical Reporter. I have sent to Mrs. C. A. Quimby of Maine (Augusta, Maine) my Report which I made to our State Med. Soc. in relation to the propriety of having a female doctor for the female Insane, also the memorial and every thing which I wrote or did to effect my purpose. She appealed to me for them so that the friends of the reform there might see how I had reached my object.

I have had hosts of letters lately from persons in various places and have written a great many.

Dr. Richard Foulke whom I twice went to see to prevail on him to quit drinking went to an "Inebriate Asylum," a private place in Philad., a few weeks ago, and in a few days returned and has since been fine in resisting it.

Henry S. Hitner, brother to Daniel O. Hitner, died two days ago, but he was a man who spent an immense amount of money, married a disreputable woman for second wife, drove all his children from home, and died penniless and without having the respect of a single person. He was a bad man.

January 28: Friday.

Since I last wrote, I have been to Harrisburgh to meet the board of trustees of the hospital, and had quite a pleasant time; the members of the Legislature were engaged in the ordinary business, but at noon every day had to vote for a person to report the Slate as U.S. Senator. I met with several of the partisans. The Republicans, who are the Majority, have "split", and it is believed that they will perhaps not be able to elect one for a month. They have now been at it for about three weeks. I had a pleasant ride home as far as Reading with my friend Dr. Traill Green of Easton, one of the Board.

I have had a very large correspondence since last writing, and have published No.3 of my papers on "Hospitals for the Insane," and women Physicians, also a number of my papers on Pneumonia, the former in the Norristown Herald and the Free Press, the latter in the Med. & Surg. Reporter. I have been commended for both of them.

Jesse Foulke and Frank Bacon Jr. were here on Sunday to dinner. Dr. Wolfe and wife on Thursday to dinner, and Hannah Bacon & her son "Bert" are here now.

The weather is intensely cold night and day, and there has been fine sleighing for nearly a month.

I am doing a large practice, for me to do, now, in my 77<sup>th</sup> year. Joseph continues to write every week and is in good spirits. The weather there now is just delightful.

January 30: Sunday.

I went this morning to see Bertha Yocom, my daughter who, Follen says, was sick yesterday. Hannah Bacon, my sister-in-law & her son, who have been with us two days nearly, went down with me to the City, on their way home. I found Bertha with a young daughter, only 12 hours old, born 10 P.M. yesterday. I also met daughter Frannie there. After an hour there, we went to see Cousin Louisa Corson, Amos' widow and her daughter Rebecca. The latter married a lawyer, George Carr, but a month ago. They live in Spring Garden St., 2219.

After a half hour there, we took the cars for Frannie's home, 460 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St., where I had dinner; then walked to the cars on which at 1:30 P.M. I left for home. Follen met me at Spring Mill with the sleigh. Came home, went to James Coulston's, then to Walton Freas' and home a few minutes ago.

Last Friday I rec'd. a Commission from Governor Hoyt, as Trustee of the Hospital for Insane, at Harrisburgh, for three years more. I have already served four years, and on yesterday, I rec'd. official notice from the Secretary of the Society that I was unanimously elected an Honorary Member of the "Harrisburgh Pathological Society" of which the following is a copy:

January 26, 1881

258 Broad St.

Harrisburgh

Dr. Hiram Corson

Dear Doctor. This is to inform you that you were unanimously elected (on motion of Dr. Thomas J. Dunott) an honorary member of the Pathological Society of Harrisburgh. The Society meets every Thursday evening at 8:30 o'clock, in office corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and Broad Sts.

Hoping to meet you in our meetings. I am

Yours, Respectfully,

J. W. Ellenberger, M.D.

My Reply:

J.W. Ellenberger, M.D.

My Dear Doctor.

I have rec'd. your letter informing me of my election to honorary membership in the Harrisburgh Pathological Society.

I gratefully appreciate the honor done me by the members of the Society, and hope to contribute somewhat of value to them thereafter.

There is nothing more grateful to me than to know that the real workers of the profession are willing to recognize me as one of that number, or class. Please convey to the members of the Society my thanks for the compliment paid to me.

With kind regards for you all,

Very truly yours,

Hiram Corson.

February 9: Wednesday.

Since last writing on January 30, have been very busy in practice, and reading, and writing papers, and in receiving & replying to letters.

Today rec'd. from Wm. Wood & Co., Great Jones St., New York, \$11.00 for a paper on Mammary Abscess, sent to the College of Physicians some weeks ago, and by them sent to be published in the Obstet. Journal.

Have rec'd. a very interesting letter from Joseph and have replied in a letter to Aunt Lucy Hamilton, Ada's Aunt, who lives with them there, being on a visit. I have also sent my third paper to the Editor of the Reporter, on pneumonia.

February 11: Friday.

Have rec'd 40 copies of my 2<sup>nd</sup> paper on pneumonia from the "Editor of the Med. & Surg. Reporter." Have arranged with Dr. Stinson to memorialize the Legislature of Pa. to pass a law to have women appointed on all Boards of Trustees for state hospitals, Reformatories, prisons & Alms Houses that receive aid from the State or from Counties.

I have practiced much today.

February 12: Saturday.

Rec'd. several letters and papers & pamphlets today. Very interesting lectures and papers by Dr. Allen of Mass., on Insanity, its prevention and treatment from himself.

[Had] palpitation for 3 hours. [It] went off while examining a patient whom I had been called to visit. Last evening I visited Sam Corson, my nephew, and had a serious talk with him on his fearful habit of taking Morpheum; he confessed to taking six grains per day, but I doubt not he takes nearer to 12 grs. He says he takes it all at one time at noon. Don't believe it.

I have arranged to try to cure him of it.

February 27: Sunday.

Have rec'd. quite twenty letters since last writing thanking me for writing some papers on Pneumonia, from Doctors in various states.

Have been much engaged in getting petitions signed to get the Legislature to pas[s] an Act to make women eligible as trustees. I did not go to solicit the names, but had others to do it.

The Historical Society of Montgomery County .

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of Feb., Washington's birth-day, a few of us met by invitation in the Court-House and organized an Historical Society. Committees were appointed to report at [next] meeting.

I have been greatly engaged with my patients and correspondence and other matters. Joseph has sent two letters from Arizona, for Germantown Telegraph, very good ones they are.

Mr. Hovenden, the artist who is engaged to my niece, Helen Corson, came with her and dined with us today. There are two very eulogistic notices of him and a photograph or rather an engraving of him.

March 1: Tuesday.

Rec'd. a letter this morning from Surgeon George Maulsby, U.S. Navy, Trafalgar Square, Washington, D.C., inviting "Mother" (wife), Mary and myself to come and stay with his family and witness the Inauguration of President Garfield on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March. I have written to thank him and to decline.

I also rec'd. by the mail this morning from the Dean of the Woman's Medical College a resolution as follows:

#### Tribute of Respect

The faculty of the Woman's Medical College of Penna., believing that the present useful and honorable position of women physicians in the State Insane hospitals of Penna. is mainly due to the disinterested, persistent and energetic efforts of Dr. Hiram

Corson of Conshohocken, desire to convey to Dr. Corson with mutual congratulations their hearty thanks and expressions of their highest esteem.

Frances Emily White, Chairman of Com. The report was unanimously adopted and the Dean instructed to send a copy of the same to Dr. Corson.

Respectfully,  
Rachel L. Bodey, Dean.

March 10: Thursday.

Good deal of practice. Spent Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> visiting in Germantown, spent an hour with Major Freas, Editor of the Telegraph, then took dinner with Priscilla Wistar and daughter, and then wife and I went to Mr. Frank Bacon's, who is married to sister Hannah Foulke, and there we took tea, then reached home by 8 P.[M.]. We had quite a pleasant visit, met some stranger. The day was superb.

Yesterday, Wednesday, was fearfully rainy. Visited many in the forenoon, had a consultation with Dr. Tyson, in the case of Mrs. Doctor Poley at P.M., then attended the Meeting of the County Medical Society in Odd-Fellow's Hall. Today I have been busy practicing, writing letters, &c.

Joseph's 3<sup>rd</sup> letter is published in Germantown Telegraph of yesterday.

President Garfield

When the President about to be inaugurated in the presence of a greater multitude of people than were ever assembled on such an occasion, he went on to the platform at the East entrance to the Capitol, arm & arm with his mother & his wife, to whom seats were given close to his. When sworn in, he turned & kissed his mother and his wife, before receiving congratulations from foreign Ministers and his other titled friends. It has made a deep impression on the people. The poet in the above beautiful tribute speaks the sentiments of thousands. Dr. Mary Stinson in closing a letter to me says: "May we not consider the presence yesterday of the aged mother and the wife of Genl. Garfield upon the platform, to witness his inauguration as president of the United States, their congratulation of him, his salutation of them prophetic of good for women?" It was beautiful.

**Editor's note:** The poem pasted in the diary on this page was published in the New York Tribune, titled, THE LITTLE WHITE-HAIRED MOTHER and is signed H.H. Pasted in the diary on the very next page is a letter from Professor Hiram Corson of Cornell University, dated Ithaca, 24 March, 1881. In the letter the Professor indicated that he will lecture one day in Philadelphia at 1615 Chestnut Street, but has to go on to New York the next day.

April 1: Friday.

Since the last writing I have been wonderfully busy. I have attended the "Commencement" of the "University of Pa." and the Commencement of the "Woman's Medical College," a large meeting too at the Hospital for Insane at Norristown. There were about 300 persons, members of the Senate at Harrisburgh and many from Norristown & vicinity.

I have sold the small house and lot in Consho. to Dr. Beaver for \$2500. Also bought one on 6<sup>th</sup> Av. for \$700.

I have also visited several times my Cousin Mrs. Martha Ellen Yerkes, uncle Amos Corson's daughter, at Bristol, Bucks Co. She is very ill, Bronchitis of long standing.

Thursday last, Prof. Hiram Corson, my nephew, who is Professor of English Literature at Cornell University, at Ithaca, N. York, delivered a lecture at the School at 1615 Chestnut St., Philad., "on the mystical meaning of Tennyson's Idylls of the King, embracing a comparative exposition of the ethical theories of Tennyson and Robert Browning." Follen, Jay & Susan, Richard Day and Frannie all went to hear him. As I had the privilege to invite whom I pleased, I invited Dr. Thomas & wife and Dr. Brinton & wife. They were all greatly pleased. He and his wife came up to see us next day, took dinner and spent several hours here, then left for N. York in the evening train.

I have also prepared two Medical papers for Medical Journals, one in Philad. and one in Baltimore.

Two letters from Joseph were published in the Newspapers of Philad. and Norristown this week.

April 13: Wednesday.

1 P.M. I am just preparing to go to Harrisburgh, leave Bridgeport at 4:41 P.M. to meet the Board of Trustees tomorrow at 9 A.M. Jaywood Lukens will go with me on business of his own. I have just rec'd. two letters from women Doctors, one from Augusta, and one from Portland, Maine. They want facts in relation to the capacity of women as physicians. Their Legislature has refused them a law authorizing women to be in charge of the Insane of their sex. I shall reply when I return.

Brother Alan, now in his 94<sup>th</sup> year, has been poorly for a few days; he is somewhat childish and not a little unhappy in his delusions. We have all been very busy for weeks. "Mother" & Mary inside the house and Follen & myself in our professions. We rise early and retire at 10 P.M.

April 17: Sunday.

Jaywood & self had quite a pleasant visit to Harrisburg. He saw Mr. Bailey & went with him to his Iron works, and explained his improvement to him. On Thursday after seeing the Mill, he came to the hospital and went through one side of it with the trustees, and then dined with us, and at 1:45 P.[M.] we left Harrisburg for home.

The night of my arrival in Harrisburg after supper, at nearly 10 P.[M.], I called on "Aunt Harriet Foulke, at the home of her son Edward on Walnut St. Found them all well and very pleasant.

April 30: Saturday.

Since my return from Harrisburgh I have been very busy in practice, have also written a long article on pneumonia for the Medical & Surgical Reporter. Many letters, &c., &c. Have also had one palpitation of 16 hours.

Have rec'd. a number of letters thanking me for my papers on pneumonia. Have had letters every week from Joseph & wife. They expect to be [coming] in July. We shall be very glad to see them. They have been three years in Ft. Yuma.

I am having considerable correspondence with Hon. Wm. Roberts and others in relation to having women appointed Trustees on the Boards of hospitals for Insane.

I have seen Representative Brown today and we have arranged to have an amendment offered to the Senate Bill, to appoint Trustees to Warren Hospital. Dr. Curwen whom we refused to elect to Harrisburg hospital is worrying the Senators & Representatives to enact a bill so as to make a woman physician, if any be appointed at Warren, subservient to the Sup[erintendent] & he wants to be Sup[erintendent]. Living in Harrisburg, he has a fair opportunity to represent things to suit himself.

May 9: Monday.

I have been to see Hon. B. Roberts. He says Dr. Curwen is very active with members of the Legislature poisoning them against women Doctors, and trying to get a law passed to suit himself. I expect to go to Lancaster, to the State Medical Meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>, where we will have some action taken.

May 15: Sunday.

I am home from Lancaster. Last Wednesday morning I met Dr. Mary Simpson and Dr. Alice Bennett, the latter is chief physician at the Norristown Hospital for Insane women, at Spring Mill, and went in the cars to West Philad. and from there to Lancaster, which we reached at 3 P.M., were taken to the Cooper House and from there went at once to the Opera Hall, where the Society was in Session. Dr. Albert Smith soon came to me to say he had already introduced a preamble and Resolution, which were made the first business for tomorrow morning. I had carefully prepared similar papers, but by that was cut out when the session was over at 6 P.M. After supper the President's address was delivered in the Court House. At 8 ½ o'clock, an opera specially gotten up for us as was in vogue in Opera Hall. It was fearfully hot and I staid but a short time. Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Smith's resolution came up early. We were all there, our party I mean, and Dr. Gallagher[sic]<sup>xiii</sup> & wife, Dr. Gerhard, Dr. Cleaves, & some more ladies.

The resolution came up. Dr. Albert H. Smith, one of Philad.'s most prominent physicians, opened the subject; he was followed by the venerable Dr. John Atlee, then by Dr. Traill Green. Dr. Green, to our amazement, opposed most violently the clause which recommended that we should ask the Legislature to enact a law, which should make it imperative on the Trustees to appoint a woman physician; he denounced the word shall. It was a regular "Clap trap" speech. I then had a few minutes, then Dr. Sibbett [Sibbet], then Green again. The rest of us were not allowed two speeches, so the resolution was lost. Dr. Smith was fearfully mortified. I forgot to say that Dr. Curwen spoke. He is a villain.

At 1:40 P.M. Dr. Smith, Dr. [empty space] from Pittsburg[h] & myself left for Philad. Smith and myself sat together coming down. He seemed greatly disturbed for fear that he had not been prudent in offering his resolution at a time when he could not have it discussed, thus he allowed Curwen and those opposed twenty-four hours to get opposition to it, while we did not do anything to secure its favorable notice by our friends. I encourage him to dismiss all regrets from his mind, but I know full well that if he had waited until I reached there and had consulted with me and taken my carefully, a droitly prepared preamble and resolutions and have put them forward at a time when the consideration of them could have gone forward, we would have succeeded without trouble.

Last evening I visited Hon. Wm. B. Roberts, who is working manfully at Harrisburgh, to have the woman physician, and also three Women Trustees for the Warren hospital. We had a long talk and laid open our individual plans for operating our case, which will come on next, this week. Little Thomas Yocom, grandson, was with me and as the evening was pleasant, we had a nice ride. Follen and his cousin Sam Corson had gone to Jacob Rex's, where the new Historical Society held its meeting. We reached home at 10 P.[M.], they at 11 P.[M.].

It is now 4 P.M. I have written letters today to Dr. Smith, Dr. Martin, Dr. Gross (of Harrisburg), Dr. Lamberton of Lehigh University, General Hartranft [and] introduced to him Dr. Albert H. Smith. On yesterday, Saturday, I sent Dr. Smith by Follen a copy of the "Act" as amended by me last week, and which struck out Dr. Curwen's Sec.III and adopted mine, and also sent him other papers. He came to Follen's office and got them. Tomorrow after he gets his letter of introduction, he will visit the Ex-Governor and talk with him as to the best way to act to secure our object.

May 26: Thursday.

When I opened this book just now, I found in it a brief letter from Dear Son Edward, when in Hong-Kong, to his sister Frannie. I have pinned it on the upper part of the page, but I think I will send it to Frannie. I know she will prize it greatly. Oh! what a dear boy Edward was. If I had him again I would not for a world let him go into the Navy. And yet, Dr. Maulsby thought and still thinks it a desirable place.

Last Monday I went by rail to Bound Brook in N. Jersey, then up to Lebanon in Hunterdon County. There met Dr. Jones and rode two miles with him to see a patient, a Miss Vorhees, who for 6 weeks has been insane or melancholy, then returned to Lebanon, took dinner with Dr. Jones at his boarding house, and at 1:53 P.M. left for home where I arrived at 6 P.M., after making a short visit to Frannie at 460 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Philad.

On Tuesday wife & self went in the afternoon to see her sister Priscilla Wistar, at Germantown. Before I went upstairs to see her, I was struck with palpitation, but I said nothing about it while there. Left for home at 4 ½ P.[M.], attended to patients as I returned, &c. The palpitation lasted me all night and till ten o'clock on Wednesday, 19 hours. Before I was rid of it, I had sent for Ellwood to see my patients. So I afterwards did but little during that day.

Today, Thursday, I am pretty well, have practiced a good deal and have been up to the farm to see our tenant, and got a note for the money he owes us.

Helen Corson's trouble. Yesterday Helen called here accompanied by Thomas Hovenden, an artist of some distinction, whom she has known for several years while in France, and since that time, and to whom she is engaged to be married, the time fixed being the 9<sup>th</sup> of June. She wanted me to loan her fifty Dollars for a few days. I gave her my check. They then, being in her carriage started to go to the Cars at Spring Mill. Myself and daughter Mary started a few minutes afterwards and soon came up to them, as they were driving quite slowly. On passing them I looked around and said you will be too late if you go so slowly. They got to the station in time and he got out and said he believed he could go in the train, and off he went and she brought the carriage home. She says that after I passed them, he said he did not think it would be worth while for her to go down; he did not think he was calculated to make her happy; they would be poor,

&c., &c. This surprised her greatly as it had only been about a week before that he had gone off in a huff, and the next day had written a penitent letter asking her to allow him to come back; she granted it and he came, and then they fixed the time for the wedding, only two weeks away, and he had taken Helen down to see Jay and Susan and told them about it. We must now await events.

May 31: Tuesday.

Yesterday was "Decoration Day." All over the County the various "Posts," as they are called, went from Cemetery to Cemetery, laying flowers on the graves of deceased soldiers and hanging wreaths on the Monuments where many were remembered by it.

Mary and little Bertha Day took the little Arabian Mare, Mary's animal and her pheaton [phaeton], and, loaded with snow-balls and other flowers, went up to Tacie's. She made fifty bouquets and when the soldiers came to visit the graves in the Baptist Graveyard in front of her home, she sent the four girls, Mary, Bertha & the two little Cressons, Anna & Mary, out to take the flowers to them. Even here in the Friends burying ground they laid their offerings of love and remembrance on the graves of the soldiers buried there. And here I must record an incident. In the evening, Lizzy Lewis, daughter of our farmer, went to the graves, gathering up the flowers and took them home. I shall inform her father and have them taken back, if for nothing else than to teach her a lesson of honesty.

We now have the loveliest kind of weather.

June 3: Friday.

At noon today we, my wife & myself, went to Germantown to see sister Priscilla Wistar who is ill with an affliction of the womb and Dr. Wistar, her physician and Dr. Goodell, the surgeon in women's diseases, have invited me to be with them in an examination of the case. We got there early. I called a few moments [on] "-----Freas," then met the physicians at 4 P.M.

An examination revealed a cancerous condition of the womb. It was of the soft variety. Goodell scraped away what was within reach and then an appointment was made to meet next Wednesday and scrape out the womb and apply the hot iron caustic. It is a sad thing for dear Priscilla, who is a good, true woman, as ever lived.

At the time appointed, the operation was performed while she was under Ether. It took about 45 minutes of time, and she came from under the Ether very well. One week after that, I visited her and she seemed very well, not a bad symptom, but still in bed.

June 5: Sunday.

Began today to prepare, write out, the history of the families of my ancestors. I have copious notes gathered from various sources, traditions, handed down from Father's & Mother's to sons and daughters, gathered too from Church records, grave stones, old Deeds, &c., &c., which need comparing to fix dates and get authentic history. I have begun with the old man who fled from France after the "Revolution," or about that time and landed on Staten Island before 1680, have traced his children and his grand children



until I find the first one who came to Bucks Co. before 1726. So much I have accomplished today working steadily from 10 A.M. till tea time.

To get more information and make sure of some doubtful points, I have written to the Register of Wills in New York, and the Recorder of Deeds in Hunterdon Co., N. Jersey, and to Heyward Drayton, attorney at Law in Philad, a son of Senator Drayton of Charleston, S. Carolina, who so nobly stood up against "Nullification," and whose ancestor was a Huguenot who came over about the time mine did, also to Lawyer Wm. A. Corson of Elizabeth, N. Jersey.

I have also replied to a letter of invitation from Chester Co. Medical Society to attend a discussion, "on the Therapeutics of blood-letting," at Pierce's Park near Longwood, Chester County, on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

June 10: Friday.

Helen Corson, my niece was married yesterday to quite a prominent artist, Thomas Hovenden, married at Norristown at the Presbyterian Parsonage, and then went to her brother Dr. Ellwood Corson's home to take refreshments, and then at 4 P.M. started on a "bridal tour."

June 16: Thursday.

We heard from Helen, who is at Lake George, yesterday.

The weather is beautiful now, and the people healthy, but I have by outside matters been greatly wearied. Dr. E. A. Wood<sup>xiii</sup> came to see me on Saturday evening last, the 11<sup>th</sup>, and spent Sunday here. I went to see a patient and then took him to see the racing stock of Mr. Welsh. He had just sent away 21 blooded colts of one year old to have them entered at New York. Without entering their pedigree at one year of age, they could not run in the "Derby." But he had just about 21 more of a few months, and their mothers, at home, besides three of the celebrated stallions. Among the mares, we found the mother of Iroquois, who has just carried off the "Derby Stakes." Thus we spent the forenoon.

Soon after dinner, I took Dr. Wood in my carriage, and Follen, with Lawyer Stinson, in another followed us to the Hospital. There for three hours attended by the chief physicians Dr. Chase and Dr. Alice Bennett, we passed through the whole immense establishment, even through the work-shops. It is our admirable institution, and the physicians seem to appreciate the responsibilities attending such labor. I was greatly wearied by the labors of the day, but after partaking of a supper prepared for us there, came home feeling pretty well. Dr. Wood was amazed and pleased, amazed that this frail, little woman who has charge of 375 females, insane females, should not have one under restraint, other than supervision, no wristlets, no locked cells, nothing but attention to their wants.

July 1: Thursday.

We have heard that Joseph left Ft. Yuma, for home, as he expected to do on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June. He went by way of Fort Bridger, where his wife and child and "Aunt Lucy," had preceded him about three weeks. So they will if all goes well be here before a great while.

I have been practicing as usual and have, in all scraps of leisure, been writing up my account of the Corson, Dungan and Dickinson and Wright families, and now am just engaged in the Foulke family, which I find, in an Almanac prepared by Joseph Foulke, can be traced back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century in Wales. This tracing of families has become greatly interesting to me, and I hope if I do not even have my record printed, that I shall leave a manuscript which will prove to some other one as valuable as those in Joseph Foulke's Almanac have been to me. It is quite surprising how rapidly I get along with the record by using up little scraps of time before meals, and occasionally at other times.

We have had Thomas & Frannie Yocom, though I should have named Frannie first as she is the elder, here for 2 or 3 weeks to improve their health, after a year's attendance at school. They have needed exercise in the country badly.

Follen went to the Sea, at Atlantic City, today with Walter Corson, who has not been well.

**Editor's note:** On the previous page in the diary, Dr. Corson pasted four pages of Vol. IX, No. 37, Whole No. 453 of *THE JOURNAL*, a paper devoted to the interests of The Society of Friends, dealing with President Garfield's death and burial; two pages of the June 30 issue of the Norristown *DAILY TIMES*, giving a history of President Garfield and his assassin, Charles W. Guiteau; two pages of the February 27, 1882, issue of the *PHILADELPHIA EVENING BULLETIN* devoted to the memorial of President James A. Garfield. Also pasted in the diary is a printed announcement of the January 5, 1882, meeting of the Obstetrical Society at the N.E. Corner, 13<sup>th</sup> & Locust Sts., at which Dr. W. Goodell will report a successful case of Hysterectomy.

July 14: Thursday.

We have heard from Joseph that he is on his way home, indeed that he is as far as Carter's at Fort Bridger and will leave for home on the 12<sup>th</sup> or thereabouts.

Yesterday I was to have gone to Harrisburg, so as to be there to meet the Trustees at 9 A.M. today, but I did not feel well yesterday and as it was very, very hot, I did not go, but practiced till noon, then went to the Medical meeting at Norristown, and also went to the Jail to testify as to the mental condition of Thomas Gabriel Learey. Follen, not having been quite well for a few days, staid at home today [and] rode with me, &c.

We expect Joseph on Sunday or Monday. The President is out of danger.

August 1: Monday.

Joseph & family and Miss Lulie Carter are here, arrived last Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> July, at noon. They all seem well and bright for just coming out of the cars, without stopping except stations, all the way from Fort Bridger in the Territory, five days & nights of continuous travel. Though his family had been at Bridger for a month or more, he did not leave Ft. Yuma till 28<sup>th</sup> of June.

Since they have been here, they have all been very well, little Mary, their only child is a very bright girl of 5 years, reads well and is quite smart and well behaved.

Miss Lulie Carter is in her 21<sup>st</sup> year and a well educated, gentle girl, unused to any society save that of her home, and officers of the Army Post and their wives – daughters.

As the number of officers is small there, she had had but little society, but she is as accomplished as if she had lived in a city.

They have all been going hither & thither to the City to get dresses & make purchases, and see relatives, &c., & to Norristown almost daily, &c., &c. Joseph has been with me in "Practice" much.

August 7: Sunday.

Samuel Maulsby Corson's Death, August 7<sup>th</sup>.

He had been complaining four or more weeks before his death of pain in the stomach and for generally vomiting his food. This soon became persistent and up to the day of his death he got no food to remain longer than an hour, generally shorter time. He remained up during the day, almost to the time of his decease. During the last two weeks he suffered almost no pain. He was in his 43<sup>rd</sup> year a man of profound study; a very museum of Literature, but a man of no ambition to do profitable business. He has been teaching a public school for some years. There could be no milder, gentler, kinder man. He was greatly beloved by his pupils.

August 14: Sunday.

Yesterday Follen and his mother, Joseph, his wife, Lulie and little Mary, Joseph's daughter, all went in the Steamboat "Republic" to Cape May. We rose at 4 P.M. [should be A.M.], had breakfast over at 5 ¼, and they left Philad. at 7 ½ A.M. I have not heard from them since. I went yesterday for Frannie Yocom and her sister Bertha to stay till our folks come home.

August 25: Thursday.

I have had three spells of palpitation since the early part of June, but not holding me quite so long, not more than from seven to ten hours or thereabouts.

Joseph and wife & dt. and sister-in-law went yesterday morning to Washington.

I attended the funeral of Charles Jarrett on Tuesday 23. Took my niece, also his niece, Ida Corson, stopped an hour or so with Cousin Sarah Ely, wife of Ely, and got home about 5 P.M.

Last week I sent a Medical paper to the "Philad. Medical & Surgical Reporter," on "Cold in Typhlitis." This week I have sent a paper on the cold treatment of small pox to the County of Beverly, N.J. and one on the value of "cold in Mastitis," to the North Western Journal of Medicine, Chicago.

September 8: Thursday.

Since last writing, I have suffered severely, every day with neuralgia of the right thigh and ankle. The old sciatica of writers of the past age. It has utterly disabled me from "Practice." Fortunately Joseph has been here to attend to the patients, and he has done it very well.

I am so anxious to get well before he shall have to leave, that I have been taking medicine pretty freely, Morpheum, aconite<sup>xiv</sup>, Cups, Electricity, Chloroform lotions, Aconite lotions, &c., &c., but they have thus far been of no avail. It agonizes me to move my leg a single inch, after I have been in position awhile. All the time there is a steady aching of the most aggravated character. I can get no sleep except while under the influence of Morph. I have not yet taken more than three ½ grain doses daily. I forced myself out to the office this morning, hoping that it would be of use to move the

limb more than I have been doing, and I am now striving to keep up, so as to write up this record of the past ten days.

It is now only 9 A.M. and I am waiting for Dr. Eizenberg<sup>xv</sup> to come to apply his "Continuous Battery," to my leg. He and Joseph think it is better in its effects than my "Electro-galvanic machine." I do not think so, and now as I have an opportunity to test it on my own person, I will try it twice daily.

Young "Willie" Carter, Joseph's brother-in-law, came here yesterday to see his sister Ada and Lulu. Joseph's wife, and her sister who is about to go to Vassar College, will leave here this afternoon to go to Cornell University, at Ithaca, N.Y. He [Willie Carter] is only 18 years of age. He has been spending his College vacation at his father's., Judge Carter. Lulie will leave on next Monday or Tuesday to go to Vassar.

Joseph's leave will expire on Sep. 28<sup>th</sup>, when he will have to report at Fort Yuma. But on acc[ount] of a fearful uprising of the Apache Indians in the region of Fort Apache and the murder of some of Col. Carr's command at that Fort within a few days, and of which we know nothing save the first attack, and the escape of Col. Carr and his small force from the field of slaughter, and their return to the fort, Joseph will return to his post sooner than he expected. The weather here is fearfully hot, up to 102-3, &c. There has been no rain for months, pasture is dried up, &c.

I have suffered greatly all day with the pain in my right leg, am hardly able to sit, to write and can hardly bare to walk at all. Yet, I have been to see 3 of my patients who were very desirous to see me.

The President was moved day before yesterday to Long Branch. Is, now, no better off as regards heat. It was at 7 o'clock this morning 77° at Long Branch and only 75° at the White House. His condition is not improved.

October 22: Saturday.

I have written none here since the 8<sup>th</sup> of September. I have suffered greatly in all this time with my hip and my leg, from the ankle half way to the knee. It has never left the leg for a moment in all that time. The hip has been pretty easy for short spells, an hour or so, occasionally, or else it was not felt, because of the leg being so painful as to over shadow it.

I have had a great deal of medicine of different kinds, but nothing seemed to any account but the Sulph. Morph. About the time Joseph left, I was just getting from under the influence of the Canabis Indica [sic].<sup>xvi</sup> After that I ceased the Electricity, and every thing else but Morph., about 1 ½ grs. a day, and some days 20 grs. Sulph. Cinchona. About 10 days ago I ventured out in the carriage, so that the people should not think I was dangerously ill, as they had come to think I was. I have been out some nearly every day since; today only over to the Godfrey lot.

Joseph got to Ft. Yuma about the 28<sup>th</sup> of Sep. and was in a few days ordered to join the 4<sup>th</sup> Artillery and report at Ft. Winslow, or at Winslow. I do not know that it is a fort. It is nearly 600 miles east of Yuma, on the Southern R.R., making to Texas. Ada and Mary stopped at Judge Carter's at Fort Bridger, where they will remain till Joseph shall come back to Ft. Yuma.

I cannot even yet walk without great pain and lameness, but I think it so useful, so necessary indeed to the hastening of the cure, that I get up early, get dressed & come

down to my meals, and sometimes ride to Conshohocken with Follen, and afterwards stay up all day, so as to be able to sleep at night.

Saturday evening. At present I am taking Tct. Aconite qts.v 3 times a day and Morph. from one grain to one grain and a quarter in 24 hours, some of it injected under the skin, some taken by the mouth, but for this, I could get no rest by night or by day.

A number of things have happened since I was taken sick.

The President died of his wounds, after suffering 80 days from July 2<sup>nd</sup>. (see a few pages back a brief account of it).

**Editor's note:** Dr. Corson recorded the following in the pages he mentioned:

“Attempted assassination of President Garfield.

On the morning of the second of July as the President and Secretary of State Blaine were passing through the Baltimore Depot, at Washington, about 9 o'clock, a man fired two shots from a pistol at President Garfield, who instantly fell to the floor. The assassin was secured and his victim, after somewhat recovered from the shock, was carried in an ambulance to the White House. The shock to the Country was terrible. No milder word would fitly describe it. The Nation was excited to the highest pitch not alone by the atrocity of the act and the fear of the President's death, but also by the knowledge, that in case of the death of Mr. Garfield, Vice President Arthur, one of Conkling's Stalwarts, who has been aiding Conkling to embarrass the Administration in every way possible to them, would become President and Conkling Secretary of State.”

Dr. Oscar Leedom, who has practiced here for several years, left here last Monday 17<sup>th</sup> and settled in Philadelphia in 16<sup>th</sup> St. near to Race Street. I feel sorry that he has gone, but really there was but little chance here any longer. So many doctors are settled near to us, at Conshohocken, Barren Hill and Norristown.

When Joseph went away I was so helpless that I sent for my grand nephew, Dr. Carroll Corson, Elias Hicks Corson's son to come and go into partnership with me. He was at the time in a Dispensary in Philad. He has been with me now about three or four weeks. “At New Year” we hope to make a satisfactory arrangement for time. We have no patients scarcely now for people know I am sick, but he has done well with those who have called on him.

Daughter Susan, who is traveling with her husband in Europe, has written some interesting letters to us. Her mother has suffered a great deal from a sprained shoulder, so as to almost disable her from writing, and I have not felt like entering on it, so she has had but little news from us, but Follen has written often.

“Mother,” wife, is sleeping close to my right hand as I write, 8 P.M., so calmly. Follen and Mary are with a “small company” at “Cousin Emily's, as they say; our girl is at her father's and every thing seems as silent in-doors and out as if their were no living thing within a mile. My pains are increasing so much, that I shall soon have to stop and lie me to bed, but not till some of the absentees return.

My nieces Ida and Helen spent last evening with us. Mr. Hovenden and a Mr. Jones being with them. Ida went back to her home, uncle George Maulsby's at Washington, after Samuel's death. But she felt so nervous and uneasy, as Helen and her husband are soon going to N. York to stay till Spring, that she returned here a few days ago to stay with Helen until she shall start.

October 29: Saturday.

During this week, I have gained health, or exemption from pain slowly. I have slept well with less Morpheum than before and have exercised more in the day-time., back even with 1 ¼ gr. Sulph. Morpheum every 24 hours, have had a continuous heavy pain in my leg and hip, save when asleep. Yesterday at 2 P.M., while engaged writing an article headed "The Historical Society," I was attacked by palpitation which lasted me till 2 A.M. this day.

I had a pretty good nights sleep and did not rise this morning till 8 A.M.. At 10 I had ¼ gr. morph. injected midway between ankle and knee on the very spot of pain, where I have had so many applications of the same kind. At 2 P.[M.] had it repeated, then went to Norristown taking "mother" (wife) along.

I had written, or rewritten an article on "The Historical Society," and some letters and filled up the time by reading letters; had scarcely left my chair, until we went to Norristown, and had been comfortable, more so than on other days, likely from being quiet. As I felt the pain being renewed at 8 P.[M.], and as I am determined to faithfully carry out my principle in practice, that is to repeat the application so as to prevent the pain ever reaching its high intensity, I shall have ¼ gr. injected four or five times daily until I am better or until it fails to relieve me. During my illness, in its earliest weeks, I took about two grs. daily besides large quantities now and then of Quinine, and for several days ½ gr. doses of Canabis [sic] Indica extract three times daily. I am greatly better now than then, and that is the reason that ¼ gr. morph. has as much effect in relieving me as ½ a grain had then. Now after so many weeks of suffering, I feel free to say that nothing seemed to have the least good effect on me save Morpheum.

I had 4 letters this morning, one from Dr. E. A. Wood; one from Prof. Traill Green; one from Dr. Benjn. Lee, and one from Cousin Lizetta Corson enclosing check for 15 Dols. for medical attendance of her sister Mrs. Martha Ellen Yerkes. They were all greatly satisfactory to me. These, with the four newspapers which come every Saturday, and the med. Journals, occupied me pleasantly in my intervals from writing.

November 1: Tuesday.

Rec'd. a great many letters this morning from Dr. Traill Green, Dr. Lee and others, [Dr.] Weir Mitchell.

My pain has been almost unendurable most of the time, but a little worse than usual today. Last evening I wrote to Susan, Jos., Dr. Chase, Dr. Green, &c.

November 2: Wednesday.

Today I feel better, somewhat, but I think it is mainly owing to keeping the pain down by more morph. than usual. I have just returned from a ride of a few miles.

November 5: Saturday.

Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, Friday [had] Palp[itation] 22 hours, going off at 4 P.M. today. I then went on today & --- ----- [illeg.] Howard Wood's family.

November 8: Tuesday.

Have been getting quite better every day since Saturday, but today, I was not so well in the forenoon, although I visited patients at Conshohocken. At 3, I rode to the

election, but just when I got to the Barren Hill, I was struck with palpitation. And now at 8 P.[M.], am suffering from it, and also suffering greatly with my leg.

This evening at 5 o'clock Follen came home from the City as usual, and brought the intelligence of the death of Judge Carter, on Sunday morning at 4 A.M., telegraphed to Follen by Ada, Joseph's wife.

November 9: Wednesday.

Yesterday, 11 h[ours], was Election Day. As I was going down at 3 P.M., was attacked by palpitation. I went on, voted and came home. I was very miserable with it and the Neuralgia all night. At 7 o'clock this morning it went off and today, after breakfast at 9 A.M., I have been up and went to see patients for an hour or two, though the weather was oppressively warm and slight rains nearly all day.

Have had a great many letters the past week.

November 10: Thursday.

Thought myself greatly better yesterday, but today have suffered much from pain in the leg in the original spot, from which it has never moved, though sometimes greatly abated.

Went at 10 A.M. to see Dr. Weir Mitchell who had desired me to come down. He applied the electric cautery to my pained spot; then I came home in the 12 noon train. The application did not hurt me, but the pain was not lessened. He wants me to come every five days. I don't think I will. He did not advise any medicine. Indeed gave no opinion of the case. Not very satisfactory, but he had many patients in the office.

November 21: Monday.

My Sciatica [is] still worrying me. Since my visit to Dr. Mitchell about 10 days ago, I have been sometimes better for a day or two, then worse so that I could not ride out. Indeed I have been all the time suffering greatly, utterly destitute of appetite and unable to get any comfort or sleep unless taking about 1 ½ grs. morph. a day. By doing that, taking the most of it in the afternoon, I was enabled to sleep most of the night. Last night (Sunday night), I began to have an increase of pain in the ankle and at the root of the second toe, (no swelling, no redness, although the pain has never left the leg for one moment for three months). By bed-time, it was excruciating and as soon as I could lie down, I took ½ gr. sulph. Morph., in ½ hour a quarter more. In an hour I fell asleep and rested pretty well till morning. On awaking this morning, it began to increase, and I got up and took ½ a grain, then dressed and took breakfast with the family. I then wrote for an hour or two at a report that I was making to our Board of Public Charities, on the condition of our Jail and Alms House. I was in a good deal of pain, but I cont'd. at my report and other needed writings till noon. At 10 A.[M.], took 1/8, at noon 3/8. Dr. Carroll Corson having seen the patients, I sent him to Norristown on business for me, and I cont'd. to do up various writings which have been neglected. At 6 P.[M.] had ¼ injected into my leg. I have not been able to visit any patients for a week. As I am so unable to go out, I shall devote myself to medical writings and correspondence. Several editors wish me to write for them..

President Garfield suffered during 80 days until finally worn out he died at the sea shore where he had been taken but a short time before.

Never in this or any other Country had there been such wide spread and intense anxiety expressed in relation to any sufferer, and after his death the mourning was in the whole world. There was not a village in the world scarcely in which it was not manifested. The historians will doubtless give a better idea of the feelings of the people of all countries than can any words of mine. Such grief was never before known.

November 22: Tuesday.

The Trial of Guiteau, murderer of President Garfield.

Guiteau, the murderer, has now been a week on trial. There is much excitement in Washington, and only last Saturday, a man shot at him through the side of the prison van. It just grazed his arm. He is acting strangely in Court. His defense is insanity. Soon after he was put to jail, one of the soldiers at the Arsenal, shot at him through the window of his prison on the outside. There is an almost universal desire among the lower classes of society to have him meet a violent death by the hands of a mob or a private avenger.

November 23: Wednesday.

Although I took but  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. morph. all day yesterday and  $\frac{1}{4}$  at bed-time, I slept pretty well till breakfast time this morning. Then got so severe a pain in my back that I had to get up and take  $\frac{1}{4}$  morph., and now at 9 A.M. am tolerably comfortable. The men are just about to thrash the wheat. It is like rain and we have to put all the straw outside the barn. I scarcely know what to do, to go on, or stop.

November 29: Tuesday.

This morning I went to Philad. Nephew Dr. Ellwood accompanying me, to see Dr. Weir Mitchell, who wrote to me yesterday to come. He applied the actual cautery to me in four places about an inch apart, over the lower end of the fibula. We then came home. There was but little suffering attendant upon it.

Got my wheat money, \$230.71 of Durnett, the miller at Spring Mill, as I came home. A good crop, at \$1.35 per bushel. It is now near bed-time and my leg is quite painful. Indeed there is not one moment of absence from it.

There is to be a social meeting of the Philad. Co. Med. Soc. at Dr. Albert H. Smith's tomorrow evening to which I am invited, but I will not be able to go.

Death of Alan Wood. Iron manufacturer Mr. Alan Wood was named after my brother Alan W. Corson, who was 12 years his senior. His father many years ago told me that Alan Corson was so nice a little fellow, when he lived in Hickorytown, when and where Alan Wood was born, that he named him after Alan Corson. My father and James Wood were friends and neighbors at that time.

Alan Wood was one of the most pleasant gentlemen I ever knew, so pleasant, so agreeable. I was to see him a year ago, and I then saw that he was declining. He was in his 82<sup>nd</sup> year. I am in my 78<sup>th</sup> year.

December 1: Thursday.

I have not left the house today and my leg is very painful, but I have done some reading and written several letters. My rest last night was much broken, and I was compelled to take  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr. morph. at 2 A.M., so am feeling rather unpleasant today.



The trial [of Guiteau] still goes on day by day. He is very troublesome, asking questions, contradicting witnesses, &c.

December 11: Sunday.

I have been out but little the past week as Carrol[sic] seemed to be able to take care of the practice, which is of course not large as people think I am not going out much.

Yesterday I was again at Dr. Mitchell's, my nephew Ellwood being with me. We took Dr. Sarah Dolley's (my niece's) apparatus along with us as Dr. M. requested, because his was out of order. I had four applications made, then drew my stocking over the burnt places without covering them with adhesive plaster as I should have done, and so before I got home, my leg smarted me fearfully. So at 4 P.[M.], I took ½ gr. morph. At 6 P.[M.] was called to Mr. Howard Wood's. The morph. had eased me so that I felt well. Today I have been out some, was compelled to take ½ gr. at 4 P.[M.] on account of increased pain.

Dr. Cleaves of the Harrisburgh hospital for Insane, female Department, came here last Thursday evening with Follen from Philad. Next day I went with her to our Hospital at Norristown. She returned and staid Friday night with us, and went with me next morning to Philad. to go from there home. She is the woman physician whom I selected and had appointed at Harrisburgh hospital., in accordance with the law which I had passed by the Legislature, permitting the employment of female physicians in hospitals for the care of Insane women.

Mr. Hovenden & Helen, my niece, his wife (artists) left here to spend a few months in N. York, and have left their French Servant, Francois Picard with us for the winter. He came last Tuesday [the] 6<sup>th</sup>. He can't speak one word of English.

Last Monday, had palp[itation] 6 hours (the first since Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>). This was greatly shortened, I think, by my brother Wm. coming in and interesting me in conversation. While conversing, it went off.

December 18: Sunday.

Yesterday I had a letter from daughter Susan, then (when she wrote) in Paris, but intending to start next day, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, for London, then to Liverpool to start for home on the 10<sup>th</sup> aboard the Steamer Ohio. So if the voyage should be prosperous, we may expect them on next Thursday. But the vessels have had such fearful struggles to get through for the last six weeks, that we feel afraid all along. The storms have been such as were never known before, especially in the European half of the voyage.

I am gaining all along steadily and am now able to be about in my practice some every day. Mary has been confined to bed now nearly two weeks, with fever, &c., contracted by spending half a day helping Helen to pack in the house, previous to going to N. York to spend the winter. Helen had let the fire go out the evening before and did not make it up that day, so it was a cold chilly place.

Francois is learning to speak English, and we are speaking and studying French, as best we can. I can read it with great facility and can speak pretty well to him, but my great difficulty is to understand him. I think I shall improve greatly before Spring, if I continue.

December 22: Thursday.

8 1/2 P.M. Follen came home this evening with the news that the Ohio Steamship, on which are Jay & Susan, is in the Delaware River at the Break-Waters.

I have had a great deal of pain in my leg, for several days. Indeed it is as severe and I am less active than a month ago. I have suffered greatly every day, but am believed by the people who see me out, to be well. Since yesterday morning I have not been out till 4 P.[M.] this day. Then went to Philad. to see some patients. After returning and before supper, I was taken with palpitation, and I have it still quite violently. I am in momentary expectation to be called to three important cases of midwifery, How'd Wood's, Geo. Corson's, & Christy Quinns, and though I am really too old and ill for such night work, I have a great desire to go.

December 25: Sunday.

Christmas. The palpitation spoken of lasted me 20 hours. Jaywood Lukens & our Dgt. Susan his wife are here also. Wm. Cresson and Tacie, also Uncle William Corson, all took suppers.

My pain has been quite bad today. Mary is more poorly again. Indeed she is very sick.

December 26: Monday.

Mary has been very sick all day, vomited often, had pain in right iliac region. I feel fearful of her, have had her eating lumps of ice all day, and had an ice-bag on her tender abdomen.

Wrote a letter to Dr. Traill Green and one to Dr. Samuel Abbott, formerly Nr. 90 Mt. Vernon St., Boston.

## 1882

January 1: Sunday.

A beautiful day. Up to this time the weather has been quite warm. People have done much plowing. No frozen ground.

Mary is better today. Since last writing, she has dozed and slept nearly all the time, has been very heavy of hearing and has taken no food but milk. Today she is better, much better.

My leg still keeps very painful, but I go out a good deal and sleep and eat pretty well under about  $\frac{3}{4}$  gr. in 24 hours.

January 3: Tuesday.

Mary is still better and will, I hope, go on to improve. Poor child, she has been now more than three weeks ill.

I have warned out all my tenants; some want to stay and others I want to go.

The Guiteau trial for murder of the President still goes on. It is the trial of the world, remarkable for the eminence of the person murdered and for the fool-hardy demeanor of the prisoner, his assertion hundreds of times boldly before the Court that he was inspired by God, as Abraham was when he prepared to sacrifice his child, to

“remove Garfield,” that he “is sane now but was under pressure from the Lord on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July when the act was committed.”

This trial so remarkable on account of the eminence of the victim, and the bold assertion of the assassin, hundred's of times repeated, that the Deity inspired him to the act, still drags along, the Court House crowded day after day by a crowd of lookers-on who seem to enjoy the impudence and sharp sayings of the prisoner. He is constantly abusing the counsel and witnesses, &c. He asserts that he was inspired by God to kill Garfield as Abram [sic] was to kill his child. To those who can swallow every foolish story of the Bible as God's word, no doubt such garble makes an impression. He says he is sane now but was crazy on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July when he shot the President.

On the morning of the first day of the year, 1882, our French servant, the one left with us by niece Helen Corson (now Hovenden), came into the house and handed me the little card, written by himself, which I shall pin here, besides writing it here:

Mon Chère Patron, et ma Chère Patronne.

Je Luis heureux de vous Souhaiter une  
Bonnes, est Heureux année, une Santé  
Parfaites, est toutes sortes de bonnes  
Chosses, et de Bouheurs.  
Et que tout se realizes selou Vos Desirs,  
Et que Votre Demoiselle Soit  
Bientot Guérie; pour jouer un peu du  
Pianos le soir'  
Le Paradis et la fin de Vos Jours.

Votre tout devoué Serviteur Picard.

He also handed one to Follen, congratulating him. We both made replies in English, so that he might translate them. I am reading French with a good deal of ease, considering how many years since I have read any. Follen is learning rapidly too, and Francois is getting along rapidly with the English, as he studies in the office every night till nearly eleven o'clock, and we help him as much as time will allow.

January 9: Monday.

The evidence is closed. The Lawyers have begun pleading.

January 10: Tuesday.

The counsel have closed, and Judge Cox is charging the Jury.

Guiteau was hanged.

I have written and rec'd. many letters these past two weeks. Hear from Joseph every week, also write to him as often. Letters today from Aunt Harriet, Lulu Carter & Anna Wistar.

My leg has been quite painful for several days. I mean more painful than two weeks ago. It is never one moment free from pain. Ellwood burnt it in 3 spots today, by means of the electric cautery.

January 17: Tuesday.

Within two weeks I have had three spells of palpitation. The first only two or more hours, next eight hours, and yesterday one of 14 hours, going off last night at 10 o'clock. My leg also has been very annoying all the time. I take only  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr. Morph. in 24 hours generally, but though that is not enough to give me entire comfort, I try to do with it. If I take any between about 5 P.M. and bed-time, it keeps me awake most of the night. If I do without, I can sleep better.

I have felt very miserable for several days, pain in my back, and limbs, arms and legs as though I were having rheumatism.

This in addition to the never-ceasing pain in the right leg below the knee, though I need not say below the knee, for anatomists speak of the part above the knee as the thigh.

But I feel that those numerous infirmities will drag me down to a state of helplessness, and most likely of suffering. Even the palpitation while it lasts is one of much suffering, but it is a great comfort that when it goes off, I am at once well again. With all these ills, I still practice every day. Carrol [sic] relieves me of all the poor patients. We have excellent women in the kitchen now, and two good men, so that we are well waited on in these departments.

Daughter Mary has come down stairs after several weeks sickness, with fever.

Today I find a patient breaking out with small pox, so have been vaccinated and have done some of the family servants.

Rec'd. letters today from Dr. John Atlee, Professors Stillé and Tyson.

January 21: Saturday.

I have not felt today as if I could do anything at all but sit about. I intended in the morning to read and write many things, but it is amazing how my leg has pained me from the moment I put my foot out of bed this morning, although I had been comfortable all night and slept well after midnight.

Had a good, long letter from Joseph. He is doing much practice with invalids, who come there for health.

We have two cases of small pox on hand now, one man of 30 and one of 53, both will be relieved, I think.

January 27: Friday.

9 A.M. I had to go out a good deal yesterday, as Carrol [sic] was suffering much from toothache and had to go to Norristown to the dentist, and give much attention to one of the small pox cases. The man died at 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  P.M. It was a rainy disagreeable day, as it was warm, with snow on the ground, and as one of [the] overshoes had a crack on the heel, my foot got damp and at one P.M., I was in so much pain that I took  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr. morph. by hypodermic injection and before 9 P.[M.] had taken 1  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. I then rested, without sleeping till 6 A.M. today. Then I was awakened by a pain in my back, low down, which increased rapidly, so that within half an hour it became intolerable, agonizing almost. I then had  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr. morph. sulph. injected, over the seat of pain and in half an hour took by the mouth  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. I soon got some relief, and now at 9:30 am quite comfortable, when not walking.

Follen staid with Frannie last night, and so I kept Carrol with us. He has suffered greatly with his tooth and has gone to get it out. I would not have written all this only

that I wish to say here that he is so indifferent to the sickness of others, that I hope this will remind him occasionally that he should not allow others to suffer a moment longer than the time needed for him to get to them and relieve them. To go to one suffering severely, or even moderately, stay a few minutes, leave a little medicine, then go away and think no more of the patient for a day or two, though having plenty of time to go again and see about his condition, is not fulfilling the duties of a physician. Take for instance a case like mine this morning. How fearfully I would have suffered for hours, had I not had the means of relief at hand. To passing the charge of negligence by saying, "the patient was not so ill yesterday when I saw him," will not do. There should be left in such a case, with the nurse, a plenty of medicine to meet an increase of pain and suffering. He is a great deal too indifferent, and I shall take occasion upon his return from the dentists to present the matter to him in as strong a light as possible.

January 29: Sunday

I have suffered more than usual with the neuralgia of my leg for a few days, and have gone out probably more than was good for me. This morning I have been called twice to persons to whom Carrol[l] can not very well attend. I hope in a few days to get through with a case of obstetrics, the case of Mrs. Howard Wood, after which I hope never to attend another case of labor. If I should not get better soon, I will have to "go South" for the Spring, till warm weather comes here.

Rec'd. a long letter from my niece, Dr. Sarah R. A. Dolley, giving me much advice in relation to my treatment of myself, which I think very good. She is an earnest and learned woman. It is now more than thirty years since she came to me as a student of medicine.

It is wonderful how the winter has slipped away, nearly two months of it gone. We had two cases of small pox last week, one very neglected one, [who] had no nurse, died; the other is getting well.

February 2: Thursday.

I have been engaged today at various matters, but have not practiced. Carrol[l] has been at work visiting. I have written to John Sevring, whose mother was Sarah Corson, daughter of my uncle Benjamin, also [wrote] to Felix Costerina, his gd.son of Reedsburg, Sauk Co., Wisconsin.

February 11: Sunday.

Yesterday I took little Thomas Yocom, our grand-son, with me to Norristown to do various matters. While talking with William, I was struck with palpitation, and so had to leave all the things undone, save to call on John J. Corson and on Frannie. Got home before noon. About 2 P.M. it went off, so I was enabled to go out in the afternoon.

I have suffered a great deal with my leg and hip this week, but it seemed as if I had to practice a good deal in the daytime. I am expected to reply to a toast, "The Friends," on the 21<sup>st</sup> at a Banquet gotten up by the Historical Society of Montgomery County. I have declined the honor, but still I may do it, if I should feel better than I now do.

Had interesting letters from Joseph & wife two days since. Joseph's gold mine seems to promise great profit.

I published last week an article on "small pox and the means used by physicians to protect themselves." It was gladly received by the people and many have gone to get vaccinated. It has done much good in giving proper views on this subject. I past it here so that it may be preserved.

**Editor's note:** The long article was printed in the Norristown newspaper. In it Dr. Corson pointed out that "there is at present a great prevalence" of small pox throughout the United States, and relates the two cases he and primarily Dr. Carroll Corson, his assistant, were treating. He urges people to be vaccinated, assuring them that the two young doctors, Oscar Leedom and Carroll Corson would not expose themselves to the infection if they did not believe in the "protective powers of the vaccination." He concludes the article, "there should be a compulsory law, and our legislators will fail of their duty to their constituents if they do not exert themselves to bring it about."

February 16: Thursday.

Last night had palp. at 7 o'clock. Had  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr. Morph. and  $\frac{1}{50}$  of a grain Atropine thrown under the skin of the hip. In two minutes I was well again. Spent a good night. Just wrote to Joseph.

February 22: Wednesday.

This day is a National Holiday. Banks and other public places are closed. I am attending six scarlet fever and measles patients at Howard Woods. Have been doing a great deal for some days, and this afternoon was compelled to stop, as I was in an agony of pain with my leg. Went to bed at 2 P.M. and suffered greatly.

February 23: Thursday.

Had a bad night. Have been in bed all day, feeling very wretched and suffering a deal of pain. Am some better this evening.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> there was a banquet by the Historical Society, and as I could not go and was appointed to speak to the toast, "The Friends," I wrote a paper of several pages and Follen read it.

February 28: Tuesday.

Today we have published a paper, the memorial address on the late President Garfield, delivered yesterday by Ex-Senator Blaine. It is an admirable paper, touches the conduct of the now President Chester Arthur and Ex-Senator Conkling with the greatest delicacy and yet in a manner that impresses every thoughtful reader with a conviction of their immeasurable meanness in their treatment of the eminent, almost immaculate Garfield. The whole nation seems to be of one accord in favor of Blaine's handling the whole subject given to him.

March 3: Friday.

An account embracing all the attempts [on Queen Victoria's life], four in number. I have cut a slip from the Bulletin speaking of it, and have pinned it on the preceding leaf.

March 7: Tuesday.

I have been very miserable for two weeks, unable to do anything in "practice." My nephew, Dr. Ellwood M. Corson has attended to the most important cases, and Dr. Carroll Corson the others. Yesterday I was very wretched, but partly owing, no doubt, to my taking no anodyne at all. This morning I concluded to go to Philad. and now after being all day going around, I feel pretty fair, though I have taken only  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. Morph. Have just had  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr. injected. [Will] go to bed.

March 8: Wednesday.

I rose feeling better than for months, and now at ten P.M., I can say I have been better all day than several months. I have been to the Eastern Hospital this afternoon and had a pleasant visit to my niece Hannah Corson, one of the supervisors, and Dr. Alice Bennett, the physician.

March 21: Tuesday.

I have improved but little since last writing save in my appetite. That is now pretty good. I eat of ordinary food about half of what I would if in health, the rest I make up with milk, of which I take about a quart in the whole day. I write and receive a great many letters every week, and read upon my med. Journals and papers, &c., also practice some. My nephew Dr. Carroll Corson does the most of it, thus relieving me greatly.

Last week I attended the University Commencement on Wednesday, and the Woman's College Commencement on Thursday. The latter had 22 graduates.

I have had unpleasant news from Harrisburg, about the weakness of our woman physician, Miss Dr. Cleaves. Today I rec'd. a letter from her asking me to meet her at the Norristown, or rather, Eastern Hospital on Thursday. I have written to Drs. Green and Lamberton, Trustees at Harrisburgh, in reference to the case of Dr. Cleaves who should, I think, resign, on another acc[ount] than her weakness. I have a letter just rec'd. from Dr. Martin of the Norristown Hospital on some matters of interest to reformers.

Signed a petition, or rather, as the "Chairman of the Board of Visitors" to the Jail, sent an appeal to the Board of Pardons for the pardon of William Muthart, who has already served 12 out of a term of 20 years for which he was imprisoned for Horse stealing. Hope it will succeed.

April 1: Saturday.

Since last writing, I have been very busy practicing, writing, reading, &c. Have suffered some all along in my hip and leg, but am greatly better as regards appetite and strength. Had very unpleasant irregularity of my heart last week, but have been pretty clear of it during this one. Have rec'd. a great many letters from various correspondence today, one from Dr. Jos. Gibbons to aid his Friends Journal; one from Bicentennial Association d<sup>o</sup>; one from Dr. Sibbett on Laws regulating Practice of Medicine; one from Felix Costerina, gd. son by marriage of Uncle Benj. Corson, and other minor ones.

Daughter Bertha was here yesterday and tonight Frannie and husband, Richard Day, and their two children are here to stay over tomorrow. I have been busy morning till night every day this week. Wife and Mary and Follen all [are] very well.

Have a cook, excellent one, and her 11 year old daughter, and a niece of the woman, all in the kitchen, a very quiet efficient set of domestics; and a farmer and a waiting man, a French-man, Francois Picard, out of Doors. So we have an easy time of it.

It is wonderful to read of the daily suicides, murders, explosions, floods and outrages and accidents which are daily recorded. I might well say with the Poet, "My ear is pained, my heart is sick with every day's report of wrong and outrage with which Earth is filled." Suicide seems to be Epidemic.

The "West Chester Local" published entire my reply, copied from the Norristown Herald, which had it in the daily & weekly both.

Today I rec'd. a letter from Dr. Jos. Gibbons in which he informed me he would publish it in the "Journal" of next week. He is Editor of the Journal and wishes me to write for it.

**Editor's note:** Two thirds of the next page in the diary and about one fourth of the following page are torn out.

April 9: Sunday.

Wife is in Philad. with daughters Bertha and Frannie, has been there several days. I have had three spells of palpitation, the last of which cont'd. for 12 hours, since I last recorded one. They are hard to bear for so long a time, but soon after they leave me, I feel comfortable again. I dare not take morpheum late in the day even to relieve my pain, save at the expense of lying awake nearly the whole night. During the last three nights I have scarcely slept an hour a night and have slept but one single hour in the day all the three days.

April 11: Tuesday.

It has been quite cold today, at 5 P.[M.] at 30° and very sharp. Yesterday [it] snowed lightly all day. I have practiced today. Am able to do a good deal of practice by taking ½ gr. morph. at noon, that relieves my pain in the hip and leg, and by evening the stimulant effect, which keeps me awake when taken near bed-time, has gone off, and I sleep pretty well.

Mother {wife} came home at 5 P.M. with Follen. Mary [is] going down to Sp. Mill for them in the big carriage.

I expect to go to Harrisburg tomorrow at 4:41 P.M. from Bridgeport to meet the Board of Trustees at the "Lunatic Hospital." I shall not go without fear that I may have palpitation before I return next evening, but still I feel that I ought to go, to consult with the members on the propriety of having Dr. M. Abbie Cleaves resign, her health is so poor.

April 13: Thursday.

Yesterday just as I reached the station at Bridgeport, before I got out of the carriage, I was struck by the palpitation of the Heart. What to do, I did not know. I told the man who took me over to stay till the train should arrive. We had 20 minutes to wait. I sat down in the Station house and pondered the matter. I said to myself, here I am already for the trip. Even if I go home, I may have it all night. Perhaps if I go on and



meet Dr. Green at Reading and have an earnest talk, it may go off, it sometimes happens so. I took the Parlor Car. At Reading did not find Dr. Green, held on my way, not a word to ----- [next portion of text is on the absent, torn out portion of the page].

April 23: Sunday.

I have done a good deal of practice since my return from the Hospital and for several days have not been well, not sick, but so tired, "weak feeling" and aching in my affected leg. Am attending to having the farm carried on, writing and reading a good deal.

The family all pretty well, the servants all performing their duties satisfactorily, and Mary and her mother keeping the house in splendid order by careful supervision.

By request of Dr. Martin, I shall this evening (now 4 P.M.) write an article for the "Record" on the success of female physicians in the hospitals for Insane at Norristown and Harrisburg.

May 1: Monday.

The weather has been so cold up to this time that but few blossoms are out. The apple trees are beginning to start out little leaves, but not a blossom.

I have felt very weak for the past few days, but have been about quite actively. It is delightful to be around and overseeing the farming.

Last Sunday I had palpitation 22 hours. It was very hard on me. This morning at 5 o'clock, while lying in bed, I got it again; but after waiting a moment, I flung myself out of bed and it instantly went off.

I slept none last night from 11 till 5 this morning. I had a bad cold and had taken a purgative.

Death of Judge Henry Pauling Ross.

He died a week ago very suddenly, indeed he was dead when they found him. After they had taken supper, they went up to see him and found a corpse. I was to see him a few days before, only 3 or four, and he was apparently well and very courteous.

Death of Mr. Christian Detweiler.

Teller of the first National Bank of Norristown. He went from the Bank in usual health, took supper, and while having his children about him, he fell and expired at once. He was an agreeable gentleman. I liked him greatly. He was always prompt and courteous when I took money to deposit.

May 5: Friday.

For several days, I have felt fearfully weak, not pain, and until noon today, it seemed that I was too weak to go about almost. Never in all my time have I felt so utterly weak.

Now at 9 P.M., I feel better, having taken some Quinine pills of 3 grains each and one fourth grain of morph. "Aunt Harriet Foulke," as the children call her, is staying a day or two, being on the road to her son Edward who is in the employ of Penna R. R. Co. and lives in Baltimore.

May 6: Saturday.

Aunt Harriet left this morning with Follen for Philad. I took them to the Cars at

Consho. I am better today, but have to regret not only my weakness, but also my indisposition to write and read. I might say my inability, for I am very anxious, but cannot continue at it. Called to the office. Quite a rainy day. Feel much better than yesterday. Will finish the day by going out to see some sick.

May 8: Monday.

Yesterday, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>, I remained in bed till after dinner (a thing unusual for me), because at 10 ½ Saturday night, [I had palpitation] which lasted me till day light. When it went off, at 5 A.M., I felt weak and sleepy and so staid in bed. After dinner I wrote seven pages of matter as a preface for my oration to be delivered next fall. This was a mere trial effort. After that, Follen took me to Uncle Alan's, found him in bed, but he knew me and talked with me a little.

I feel wretched enough, but have no pain., just weak, loss of appetite, &c. Have been about a good deal today. Sent a letter to Joseph and rec'd. one.

May 9: Tuesday.

Have been feeling a trifle stronger today. Went early with Follen to Consho. to take him to the Cars, and afterwards I saw several patients. Then went to B. Hill and saw some others before noon. In the afternoon went to Bank to deposit it, \$94.00; then [went] to the Hospital to see the Steward about selling him more vinegar. Saw Dr. Chase, the chief male physician, a short time, then spent a half hour with Dr. Bennett, the chief female physician. Each have about 400 patients.

On returning to Norristown, made a brief visit to Mr. Chester L. Smith's Shirt Factory, then came home. Have felt pretty well till within an hour. Fearing that I could not sleep, indeed I feel so nervous that I know I cannot even lie in bed. I will take ¼ gr. morph. and go to bed., fear the morph., while it will make me comfortable, will keep me awake.

May 10: Wednesday.

After taking the morph., I lay wide awake till two o'clock last night, then dozed a little. Got up feeling pretty well. Did not go out till noon nearly. Carroll took Follen and visited the patients at Consho.

At 11 A.M. James Harner came to tell me that he had a cow taken very ill in the morning. As he has just lost two horses, he wished me to advise him about the cow. I took Mary with me and went directly over. She was dead when we got there. Poor fellow!! He is a poor renter and these are sad losses.

The State Republican Convention meets at Harrisburg today. Brother William is Senatorial delegate from this County. There is great excitement. The State Medical Society meets today at Titusville. I shall have to miss it this year. I have seldom missed in thirty or more years.

I have felt none of that weakness of the past few days today. Have been overseeing the two men in the garden and the lawn and trimming a little here and there.

May 14: Sunday.

Very rainy. Have written to Joseph, Sarah Dolly [sic], Prof. Traill Green,

Edward Lewis, Ch. of Co. on construction of Public School Buildings, Philad. Sent pamphlets too to nearly all of them.

On my request sent to the Sec. of the Society while in session at Titusville last week, the next meeting will be held in Norristown next May.

I am pretty well today. Jim and Carrie Cresson and Frannie Yocom are here today and enjoying themselves greatly, despite the rainy weather.

Yesterday I went to Norristown to see my tenant on Marshal[1] St. and show my man Matt how to sod the front yard; then went to see Mrs. Poley, widow of my deceased friend Dr. Francis Poley, who is dying slowly of Consumption. Poor woman! How sad for her to be sitting there waiting for Death to bear her away, suffering all the time the pains and troubles incident to that disease. She was very cheerful while I staid and seemed very thankful for my visit.

May 17: Wednesday.

Yesterday while visiting at Howard Wood's, I was struck with palpitation at 8 ½ A.M. I had to ride till noon. Then was called to S. Staley's at noon. Went there at one o'clock, then to the sale of "blooded cattle" at Mooney's. Bought a cow & calf, \$52.00. Had sold a dry one a few days before for \$45, so think I did pretty well, as this is from the celebrated Scipio Bull and has a calf of same stock. The palp[itation] cont'd. on me and it was with difficulty I could stand up and walk about, but I did. In the evening Susan and her husband were here to tea, also little Tom Yocom. Frannie Yocom has been here for several days. I was called out, a mile, went, came home & went to bed. It cont'd. with me till one this morning, and I did not sleep a wink till nearly three o'clock.

Mary and her mother went to the City this morning, and I have been busy all day. Sent & rec'd. letters.

May 19: Friday.

Have been doing a great deal for two days. Was very tired last night & slept pretty well. Carroll has been away since Wednesday noon in Philad. What he can be doing there I cannot tell.

10 A.M. Carroll has come home

Rec'd. letter yesterday from Mrs. Turner, asking me for Reports and other documents in relation to the Public Schools of the City of Brussels. Sent them to her.

Rec'd. notice from Dr. Atkinson, Permanent Secretary of State Med. Society that the next meeting will be held, per request from me, at Norristown and that I have been appointed Chairman of the Committee of Arrangement, with power to appoint my associates.

9 P.M. Mary, mother, Follen, Frannie Yocom & Thomas Yocom have all come into the dining room where I am writing and have with them a large cake of Mary's baking and a large pitcher of Lemonade, and we are now having a pleasant time eating cake & drinking her Lemonade.

May 26: Friday.

I have felt as well for the last week as I did before I was taken sick 10 months ago, and am very active. Attended the meeting of the Historical Society in Norristown

yesterday. Only about 11 present, one woman, Mrs. Holstein, wife of Mayor Wm. H. Holstein.

Dr. Carroll Corson went West on Tuesday last. He will go to his brothers Henry & [empty space], high up in Minnesota, 150 miles west of Minneapolis. He has been practicing with me for several months, but thinks the West is a larger field for a young man than this region.

June 11: Sunday.

Follen left here at 9 A.M. to go to West Philad. where he will take the Cars for Pittsburgh at 11 o'clock. Mary took him to the Cars at Spring Mill.

Dr. Carroll wrote to me last week. He is well pleased with his place. I have been very well, have a good appetite. Take three pints of milk, Alderney milk, daily.

Dr. George Highley left Roxboro (where he has been located for nearly a year) and came to Conshohocken to practice. I hope he will succeed there; he is a genteel man, son of my niece Susan Corson, brother Charles Corson's, & wife of Felix Highley.

The country is beautiful now, and the weather is charming this morning. Have been to Germantown, to Frank Bacon's, Priscilla Wistar's and to P. R. Freas'. I went to Freas' and staid an hour with him, while wife was at her sister Priscilla's. We got home at 8 ½ P.[M.] and found Susan and her husband and sister Emily Bacon here. Had to visit one patient, half a mile away.

June 21: Wednesday.

Death of Alan W. Corson, my brother.

Alan Wright Corson, my brother, the eldest of my Father & mother's family, was born the 21<sup>st</sup> day of February 1788 and died June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 P.M. 1882, aged ninety four years and four months.

Until two years ago his intellect seemed unimpaired, and he read and wrote with facility, though his sight was failing, so far as reading was concerned. Then he began to think at times that he was not at home, and to worry about going there, but this was only an occasional feeling. He gradually declined, could not see to read, became weak, so as to get in and out of his carriage with difficulty, but cont'd. to attend Meeting until the last year of his life. I visited him often and even during the last four months, he always knew me and seemed glad to see me, though he could not walk alone for some months before his death, but could get in and out of bed and get to a chair near by and sit up for hours. I generally went to see him about once a week. On Tuesday 20th, I called and found him, as I thought near the end. Went next morning and then he gave no sign of hearing when I spoke to him. Saw him on the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup>. He was evidently dying. Went again in the evening before sunset. He had been dead a few minutes when I arrived. Follen was with me and we remained an hour, arranged with his daughter Martha Styer, in relation to the funeral.

June 26: Monday.

8 A.M. We are preparing for the funeral which is to take place today at 10 o'clock. Matt has taken - Here in my way is one of the most beautiful insects I have ever seen. Oh! there it does one flying jump and it is 10 inches away on the other leaf.

It looks like an animated item of satin, its feet & legs so delicate that I cannot define their outlines. How wonderful is creation! Well might the poet exclaim,

“All Naturefull and bursting into birth!”  
“Above how high progressive life may go,  
Around how wide! How deep extent below.  
Such chain of beings! Which from God began  
Nature ethereal, human angel, man.  
Beast, bird, fish, insect that no eye can see,  
No glass can reach; from infinite to Thee,  
From Thee to nothing.”

I said, Matt has taken, and now add, the trunks of “Aunt Harriet Foulke” and our daughter Mary to the Station at Sp. Mill, so that as soon as possible after the funeral they may go down and start for New Hope. It is a lovely morning. It rained hard last evening, the dust is laid, and the fields and lawns are covered with brilliant rain drops and are green as emeralds.

Alan’s life is over. It has been one of uncommon conscientiousness. He was one of the most active men, physically and intellectually, in all our county, a mathematician, botanist, mineralogist, conchologist, surveyor, astronomer, a great reader, member of the Philad. Library and a daily reader of its volumes for many, many years. See next leaf.

**Editor’s note:** Dr. Corson refers here to articles which supposedly were to be included in the diary at this point. On the blank part of the page he wrote subsequently, “1892. The articles and other published ones are lost.”

Dr. Joseph Gibbons, Editor of “The Journal,” a weekly paper in the “Friends” interest, or rather as an exponent of “Friends” principles, has written to me to write to him an account of Alan’s life and labors, and I have written by way of my brother William, to David Newport, to know if he will do it from data furnished by me. He has replied that he has written. I must therefore wait till I see his paper.

Mr. [space] Meehan, the Botanist of Germantown, has asked James Richie to furnish him with some data to enable him to write an article on the life of Alan, to publish in his monthly. Mr. Ritchie called on me to do it. I have done it at great length. He also wanted to know when John Evans engaged in botany. I have also told him that.

July 23: Sunday.

It is a most beautiful morning. We have all our hay and wheat in the barn and tomorrow, we hope to take in our oats, or rather to begin to cut it.

On Thursday last, we saw in the Bulletin that Joseph had been ordered to proceed from Ft. Yuma to Philad. and to report at this latter place. In his recent letters he said he would likely receive notice about the 20<sup>th</sup>. So it came about that time. He will be here in two or three weeks, if nothing intervenes.

We have had a very large harvest, 20 acres of grass, 5 of wheat, five of oats, have five in with corn, some in potatoes, &c.

We have been pretty well, quite well, in our family during harvest time. I am practicing some every day, but in the main taking life pretty easy.

The British bombarded Alexandria in Egypt last week, and now finds that a war will be necessary in order to subdue Arabi Pasha, who is the Rebel Chieftain, and has retired with his forces on Cairo.

The scrap pasted here in relation to brother Alan is from the Germantown Telegraph and was written by our friend, the Editor, Mayor Phillip R. Freas.

The one on the next page was produced in this way: James Richie wrote to me that Mr. Meehan, the botanist, had asked him to send him some facts in relation to brother Alan's early history and his descent, and so that he might get up an article for his Horticultural Journal, a monthly publication. I sat down and wrote off the following to be used by Mr. Meehan as a guide for his essay. Instead of writing one, he used mine just as I had written it. It was afterwards copied into the Norristown Herald. I then wrote the article which follows it and had it published, to show how the first one became public.

**Editor's note:** These are the articles missing, as noted before.

August 3: Thursday.

We expect Joseph home in a few days. He has left Ft. Yuma, we hear, & is on his way. I have had three short spells (of 2, 4 & 6 hours) of palpitation of Heart since last I have spoken of it. The last one two days ago was 6 hours, and I staid up all the time and felt badly for a good while after it went off.

In turning over some leaves of the book, I found a poem of Dickens, embodying a host of his characters, written by a Newtowner.<sup>xvii</sup> I have read it at the breakfast table to our folks. It is really very cute.

I am engaged daily now in writing up our family history and in other writing.

August 7: Monday.

I am preparing to go to the Poor-House today. It is very hot this morning, but I have appointed the time and must go. The other members of the "Board of Visitors" have been notified by me and will likely go. I shall take the Cars at Bridgeport at 8:24.

Yesterday I wrote a good deal in my report of our family.

Death of my friend Henry Laurence.

He was at Lake George in N. York, and while bathing was seized with cramp and sank to rise no more. He was an admirable gentleman, kind, gentle, loving to his family. He was living in a beautiful place at Saratoga, where on his father's homestead he was having the water of a spring on the property, bottled for sale. It was the Excelsior Spring. He had previously been in the Glass-business at Millville, N.J., where his father-in-law Franklin Whitall had made his fortune. Henry went out of the business some years ago, with \$70,000, and went to his late residence. He will be buried at Laurel Hill tomorrow at 10 o'clock. I hope to go. He will be buried at Laurel Hill on the 8<sup>th</sup>

[August 9: Wednesday]

I was at Mr. Laurence's funeral. Susan went with me. There were very few

persons there. I am sorry to hear that he had lost nearly all his money. What a sad thing! How strangely things work.

The trouble with England and the Egyptians, in other words with Arabi, the "rebel" chieftain, progresses. It would not be surprising if the great powers would be involved soon. The Sultan is acting a double part. We shall soon see what will develop. Breakfast is called and I must leave.

August 16: Wednesday.

I have been closely engaged since last writing. One day was spent at the Poor-House in a close examination of it. We had quite an interesting time, but it was very hot, and though I went in my carriage instead of by the R. R. and cont'd. on my feet, traveling around among the inmates of the hospital for the sick, Hospital for Insane and the large house for paupers, when I reached home I was not at all weary. The Directors listened attentively to our suggestions for improvements, and promised compliance with them.

Every leisure moment has been used by me in writing out the histories of that part of my record which relates to the brothers and sisters of my father Joseph Corson and their families. I have brought it down at last to where the history of my brothers and sisters will begin. Will now turn from it to do other work.

Last Monday I had my photograph taken in Philad., with a full beard, because the children wanted it taken so.

September 5: Tuesday.

Yesterday the 4<sup>th</sup>, I went to the County Convention at Lansdale and stood there among the people and walked around from before noon until 4 P.M. when Follen & myself started home. We had gone but about a mile when I was struck with palpitation. I rode home, which I reached about sunset. It cont'd. all night and till 11 ½ A.M. today.

Joseph & Ada have been here and I have not [done] as much writing and reading as usual, but have been busy looking up the subject of blood-poisons; the action of medicines; the functions of the nerves, their origin, &c. Have read the experiments on the venoms of the rattlesnake by Weir Mitchell, M.D. and "cupping glasses in poisoned wounds," by Dr. Pennoch, &c., &c.

September 17: Sunday.

Joseph sold his store house in Conshohocken for \$6000 to the Peoples Bank. It cost him \$3000.

I have been to Penllyn today with Mary, for a ride and to talk a little with the tenant. Last Friday, 15<sup>th</sup>, was wife's birthday. She was born in 1811, and of course was 70 years old. Susan and Jawood [sic] Lukens, her husband, invited us and all our children, sons and daughters and sons-in-law and daughters-in law, to take supper with them. We were all there but James Yocom. Bertha brought her daughter Frannie with her as her husband (James) could not leave his business. We had a very pleasant time and a splendid entertainment.

Genl. Wolesley defeated Arabi Pasha in a pitched battle on the 15<sup>th</sup> and took him prisoner. So the war of England with the Egyptians is over. The General said two weeks ago that it would be over by Sep. the 15<sup>th</sup>. It was remarkable that his prediction came true to the day.

Daughter[-in-law] Ada's birth-day.

Jay and Susan, Tacie & Will, Ida Corson and her sister Helen Hovenden and her husband were invited. We had a very pleasant time

Joseph and myself were in town this week, Ada also, and she and Tacie went to see Hannah Richie. She gave Tacie many plants from her green houses. They were also to see Aunt Priscilla Wistar who is very ill with cancer of the womb. She suffers a good deal and is slowly wasting away.

September 23: Saturday.

I have written a good deal today on the subject of the blood. Is it alive or not? and also of pus. Is it living fluid? Our med. meeting will take place on Wednesday next, and I shall read my paper, to open the discussion. (Is blood alive, before death of the body).

October 4: Wednesday.

Today I read my paper on the question, "Is the blood alive," before the Medical Society of the County at Norristown, and was replied by Dr. Emily White, whom I had invited to give an exhausted paper on the vitality of the blood. We had four women doctors at the meeting. The Philad. County Med. Society will not admit them to membership at all, although there are many in favor of it, but not quite enough to carry the vote.

October 8: Sunday.

Today, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, I am seventy eight years of age. This morning after breakfast my attention was called to presents made to me by the children. 1<sup>st</sup> a splendid woolen lap-cover for winter by Follen; 2<sup>nd</sup> a fine set of yellow mounted harness by Joseph; 3<sup>rd</sup> an ornamented basket for papers by Mary & Susan.

[Received] an invitation to a Reception at Elwyn, the Institution for Feeble-minded children, in honor of the "Association of Superintendents of those Institutions throughout the United States," last Wednesday. Was just ready to go, when I was attacked by a palpitation which lasted me five hours, and thus I was prevented. Invited by Dr. Kerlin, Sup't.

Wife and myself invited to the wedding of Miss [space]Boyer, daughter of Percy and [space] Boyer to Mr. [space] of Baltimore, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> at the home of the bride's parents at Barren Hill, 1 ½ miles from here,

Rec'd. a letter from Dr. Tyson for Joseph & myself to attend the Introduction of Dr. Leidy last Monday. We did not go. But I went with Mrs. Walton Freas to Philad. to Dr. Broomall and Dr. Croasdale in Walnut St., both women doctors, to consult them about Mrs. Feas' disease of the womb.

Joseph attended a small party at Prof. James C. Tyson's, Spruce St., last Wednesday evening. He met several old acquaintance and some new ones and had a pleasant time.

I was intending to write and read much on Insanity this afternoon preparatory to writing out my address for the Alumni Association of the University of Pa. and had arranged my letters for an hour or so, when at 2 o'clock, young Albert Edward Shall, son of my niece Clara Corson, daughter of my brother Joseph, came in for 2 hours. I had to



entertain him. For a while I talked, then showed him my minerals and gave him some. At 4 P.M. Follen looked in upon us at the office, but went right away. In about half an hour Joseph came in, was very pleasant with the young man, said "Mother don't seem any better," so I slipped up to see her, leaving Albert with him. "Mother" had a chill on Friday & much pain in the bowels. Yesterday she was much better and came down stairs as she did this morning, but she had a chill again about 9 o'clock today.

I was very weary when Joseph came to my relief.

October 10: Tuesday.

Yesterday we finished threshing our oats, had 109 Bushels. Were invited to a family tea party at Mr. Hovenden a week ago. Had a pleasant time.

Yester eve. were to go to Emily Corson's to another family party, but as wife was sick, she and I did not go. Joseph & Follen and Mary went and met their cousins Ida, Mr. & Mrs. Hovenden and all E. H. Corson's children at present at home.

October 11: Wednesday.

Went to Dr. J. Salis Cohen's, Walnut St. 1431, to a "Reception to meet Dr. Morell McKenzie of Edinburgh. There was a very large company of physicians. I went at 9 (the time of meeting), came away 10 minutes after 10, took the 10:35 train at 9<sup>th</sup> & Green, home at 11:15 P.M.

At 2 A.M. I awoke and in a few minutes had a palpitation. It lasted me till 11 ¼ A.M. So I was not able to go to the "Founder's Day" at Allentown. [Had an invitation to attend] Lehigh College, on Founders Day, by Dr. Lamberton, President of the College.

[October 14]: Saturday.

Today and yesterday and indeed for the whole week, I have had much riding and business outside of my practice. I was at Norristown yesterday & today. I ate supper and had for it fresh bread, which disorders my stomach generally. At 8 o'clock I was struck with palpitation and have it now, but I feel worse when I lie down than when I sit up and read or write, and so I have taken to this work. Wife is sitting near sewing. Joseph is reading songs aloud or singing them with Mary in the parlor. Follen is at "Cousin Emily's," and Ada (Joseph's wife) is putting her daughter, little Mary, to bed up stairs.

October 18: Wednesday.

4 P.M. I was at Norristown ready to go to the Cars at Bridgeport at 4:41 P.M., left for Harrisburgh. At Reading met Dr. Green from Easton. Had a pleasant ride with him to Harrisburgh, which we reached at 8:20. I went to the "Lochiel," took supper and went to bed.

October 19: Thursday.

Went to the Hospital at 7 ½ A.M. from the Lochiel, in a carriage sent for me from the hospital for the Insane. Visited all the female wards before 9 ½, then were in Session till 3 ½ P.M., save while at dinner. The superintendent made an effort to disparage the female doctor., a sneaking secret effort so far as related to her, but after a long discussion

the friends of the women officers prevailed, though the president of the Board went back on his former convictions, "that to have female physicians for the female insane is a wise reform." Dr. Traill Green and myself took the Cars for Reading at 4 P.M., parted there, he going on to Easton and I homeward, where I arrived at 9 P.M. Found Follen at the Bridgeport Station with the carriage for me.

November 1: Wednesday.

Since last writing many things have happened. Miss A. A. Chevaillier, Secretary of the New Society for "the Prevention of Insanity and for the Protection of the Insane," came here with Follen from Philad. Her home is in Boston. Staid all night, and next morning, I went with her to the Hospital for Insane at Norristown, and after a pleasant visit to Drs. Alice Bennett and Anna Kugler, we went to Philad. and had a conference with Dr. Joseph Parrish, the President of the Society and Dr. Beard of New York, Treasurer, at the College of Physicians. The City was filled to crowding with 400,000 strangers, to witness the imposing ceremonies, of the Wm. Penn Bicentennial display. For four days, the City was crowded. More than three hours were occupied by the passage of the procession, and so every day. The evening she spent here, I had a palpitation of several hours and that night did not sleep. So the next night when I got from the City, I was very tired. I have had a good deal of practice to attend to also.

Last evening and this morning early, I wrote letters to General Hartranft, Prof. Samuel D. Gross, Dr. Thomas G. Morton, Dr. Traill Green, Dr. Rufus Baker, Mahlon H. Dickinson, Prest. of Board of Public Charities, asking their co-operation in the meeting of our association January 25<sup>th</sup> in Philad. One also to Dr. E. A. Martin on the same business. Miss Chevaillier wants me to send one hundred circulars to physicians in the State.

"Aunt Hannah Bacon" has been with us two days, and wife has just taken her to the Rail Road to go home, and she will bring Joseph and Follen back from Spring Mill. Hannah is a fine, smart woman, and her visit was very agreeable to us.

I have been occupied two evenings on my "oration," to be delivered before the Alumni Association of the Medical Department of the University of Pa. and have nearly written enough.

November 19: Sunday.

I have been very busy since last writing, getting ready for our meeting Jan. 25, '83. I have sent out more than 50 circulars and have written special letters with nearly 20 of them. Have not written any more on my paper to be read before the Alumni Association. Have read letters from Hon. Harman Yerkes, Hon. Judge Richard Watson and Genl. W. W. H. Davis, all of Doylestown, Bucks Co.; from Dr. Harvey of Chester and others, consenting to my using their names to a "Call" for the meeting.

Sale of the Penllyn Property. We have exchanged the property which we have held at Penllyn, my father-in-law's old home, for \$5,775 and a house in Bridgeport valued at 6,225, owned by John Richardson. We are very glad to get rid of the farm. It has been a source of great expense to us, and we have been annoyed by the owner of the mill, Wm. Lehman, time and again, so that it is a relief to be rid of it. We have lost about two thousand dollars a piece with it. On the lot at Chestnut Hill, which we bought and sold before getting this, we made \$3400, so are not quite square yet.

Joseph has rec'd. a letter from Surgeon General Crane, offering him a choice between the Department of Missouri and the Department of Dakota. He has chosen the former, of which the Headquarters are at Leavenworth. He has been for several days busy getting ready to go. I have been very well for some time, and have done a good deal of good practice. I have too been very busy in the intervals writing letters as before stated.

Bertha and children were here today to take leave of Joseph, his wife, and child and pay us a visit. [She] went home at 5 P.M.

Susan & Jawood [sic] were also here an hour or two. This is the first day for some time that I recreated, have done no writing or reading scarcely. I concluded to rest myself, as I was weary from having had palpitations, six hours on Friday night, and losing the entire night's rest.

Our crops this year have been very good. Oats 209 Bus., Wheat 125 at \$1.05, only 4 acres of ground. Hay at least \$200 worth, corn 200 Bushels, perhaps a good deal more.

November 27: Monday.

Joseph & wife & daughter, left here, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> for Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, 12 miles from St. Louis, a Cavalry Station, and a pleasant place.

December 2: Saturday.

Met Dr. Parrish by appointment at Follin's office, and arranged our course of proceeding for calling the meeting of the association for the "Prevention of Insanity and the Protection of the Insane."

I have written many letters to prominent men for their consent to use their names to our "Call" for the meeting and have rec'd. it in nearly every instance.

Gov. Hoyt, Mayor King, Ex-Gov. Hartranft; Judges Butler, Fell, Watson, Stinson, Thayer; Profs. Gross, Pepper, Tyson, Mills, Rothrock, and a host of others. I will make a list on another leaf.

December 4: Monday.

We have a letter from Ada, came last Saturday. They arrived safely at St. Louis, & Joseph had gone to the Barracks, to see about getting his quarters ready.

December 11: Monday.

Have had palp. since last evening at 11 o'clock till today at 11 A.M. I had had a very bad cold from doing a great deal of riding in the cold last Friday. It was very cold.

I am now (noon) writing many letters about our expected meeting of the "National Association for the Prevention of Insanity and the Protection of the Insane." I have only till next Friday to finish my paper to be read before the Alumni Association of the Med. Department of the University of Pa., and so I shall have to put myself to the work every leisure moment.

December 28: Thursday.

"Aunt Priscilla," Mother's sister, as the children would say, died yesterday. Will be buried on Saturday.

December 30: Saturday.

Wife and I went to Funeral [of Priscilla Wistar].

## 1883

January 1: Monday.

I have had three palpitations in 8 days, but not so long, either of them, as usual, from 5 to 10 hours. I have been greatly engaged since last writing, every hour of my time when not in bed, in getting names of noted people to our "Call" for a meeting of the "Association for the Prevention of Insanity and the Protection of the Insane." I had to write to nearly all whom I secured. It is a notable list of Hon. Judges, Doctors, Professors, and eminent private citizens. Dr. Joseph Parrish and myself got them all. Our meeting will be on the 25 January, '83.

Dr., I ought to say Prof. James Tyson, read my Oration (as they call it) before the Alumni Association of the Medical Department of the University of Pa. on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December. It will be published with the other proceedings, and I hope to have a few reprints in pamphlet form.

January 4: Thursday.

Death of Gambetta. The most eminent man of France died three days ago, in the prime of life aged about 42, I think. Whether it will be for evil or for good to the Republic seems to be a matter of doubt with the French people.

Robert R. Corson and myself settled up our accounts in the Penllyn Farm business, very amicably indeed. We have lost several thousand dollars, but as we have every thing paid, we do not mind it.

This day at noon I was to be present at the Woman's Medical College at the opening of the "New Clinic Hospital" and "to say a few words" to the class of more than 100 young ladies, "by way of encouragement." But I did not go because I did not receive the Card of invitation till yesterday, though they or it was written & sent on Saturday, and rec'd a special note yesterday from Dr. Rachel Bodey, the Dean. They were very anxious for me to come.. They wrote me that "the pupils were very anxious to see the person who had so courageously fought for their cause for a number of years, with the whole medical profession opposing him the greater part of the time."

January 14: Sunday.

Since "New Years Day," I have been very busy, have practiced a good deal and have written and rec'd. scores of letters, in relation to the Association meeting which Dr. Jos. Parrish and myself are getting up at the College of Physicians, as well as others.

About the first or 2<sup>nd</sup> of January, the stone barn on our small farm, which we call the "Benny" Jones Farm, was burned early in the evening. It was set on fire by the tenant, I am very certain. "He had his crops & stock insured to about three times their value. Our loss is about \$800.

Have had palpitation only once since Jan. 1.

Dr. H. H. Whitcomb of Norristown came to see me today at noon in relation to the duties of the Committee of which I am Chairman by usage of the State Soc. I appointed seven assistants last week, and we have notified them to meet at Dr. Whitcomb's office next

Tuesday. There will be much labor and expense to us before we shall get through with the meeting next May. Dr. W. has agreed to do the work for me, most of what properly belongs to me to do, and I agree to keep him entirely clear of expenses.

January 21: Sunday.

I have been busy all day. Went by rig to see Mrs. Walton Freas at 8 A.M., then to Conshohocken to consult with Dr. Wm. McKenzie, formerly my student, in a case of Chalmers Fulton, M.D., son of Rev'd. Wm. Fulton, ill with Typhoid Fever.. Then to see with Dr. M. a case of Diphtheria in a young girl of D. Foley's., then to J. Fitzsimmons to vac[cinate] son, as I was near to the house. Then [went] home and staid till after dinner. Jeremiah Comfort called to see if I could come to his house to vac[cinate] 4 persons. There is a great scare about Small Pox in Conshohocken, several persons having already died. As I had been sent for to see Mrs. Henry H-----[illeg.], I went there as soon as dinner was over, then to Comforts to vac., then to Walton Freas' to see his wife, very ill with cancer of the uterus. While there was told I had been sent for to see daughter of Maggie Loyle, two miles away. When I got back at 4 P.M., found two men in the office who wished to be vaccinated.

Did not feel at all well at supper time and have been quite uncomfortable with nausea since. It is now 8 ½ P.[M.]

Wife is in Philad. Follen has gone to "Cousin Emily's, so only Mary and myself are at home, except Catharine (our woman) and her daughter and our German boy, Herman.

January 25: Thursday.

Meeting of Association for Prevention of Insanity. I went to the meeting at the Hall of the College of Physicians. It was a fine meeting. A great many eminent men [attended]. It [was] held from three P.M. till 5 ½ P.[M.], then there was a Council meeting of Drs. Parrish & Dana and Dr. Lamberton & myself and the Sec., Miss Chevaillier. At six & half we went to an entertainment given to the members at the house of Prof. Gross. I came home in the 7:30 P.M. train.

January 26: Friday.

Went to the meeting in noon's train, staid from 3 P.M. till 5 ½ P.[M.], then went to Richard H. Day's to tea and spent an hour with wife and Frannie & her husband and children. Came home in the 6:35 P.M. train. Met a good many pleasant men each day.

February 4: Sunday.

Did not do much today. Felt very weary. Did not even read and write much. "Jay & Susan" came in the afternoon, and it was pleasant to have them. John Jones and daughter sent for me to advise with them in relation to George Webster, his grandson, now in the Hospital at Norristown Insane Hospital. After supper I went to see them. Was also sent for to see Dr. Shelly in consultation with Drs. Styer & Newberry tomorrow at 9 o'clock.

February 5: Monday.

Went to meet the Doctors, in a great snow; practiced the remainder of the day,

after coming from the consultation. I think the young Doctor will get well, if not broken down by veret. viride.<sup>xviii</sup>

Follen read a letter from Joseph, and I wrote one to him. Carrie Cresson, our gd. daughter, is with us today.

February 12: Monday.

Yesterday was very rainy & snowy. I had to visit a few people and after that wrote letters and read the rest of the day. Yesterday wrote five letters and read a good deal, besides writing a review of a "Case of Tedious Labor," reported by a fool of a young Doctor who shamefully treated the woman and killed the child and wished to show what wonders he had performed.

February 14: Wednesday.

Saw several patients. Wrote five letters. Read journals on papers sent to me by Dr. Formad. Wrote a brief review of them to him. Got a letter from Mahlon H. Dickinson, one from Dr. Sibbett [Sibbet], postal from Dr. Whitcomb, letter from Dr. Schrack. Saw a few patients.

Wife has been quite sick for several days but is better today. I am to write a history of the Montgomery Co. Medical Society to be read on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. [Plan] to attend a meeting of the Com. on Entertainments of Med. Soc. of State, on 20<sup>th</sup>. Am invited to speak at an antivivisection society March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 83.

[February 16]: Friday.

Rec'd. letters & some papers, wrote several letters. Practiced. Went to Norristown to see Dr. H. H. Whitcomb, who acts as Secretary for me in the Committee of Arrangement business, preparing for State Med. Soc. meeting. Letters were from Pres't. P. C. Dickinson, from Dr. Halberstadt; Mrs. White, President Soc. for prevention of Cruelty to Animals wishes me to speak at their meeting March 2<sup>nd</sup>; from Historical Society, and several others.

February 17: Saturday.

Awoke at 3 A.M. with palpitation. Have not had an attack for nearly a month. Have been in perfect health. The palp. lasted me till 2 P.M. today. Since that, I have visited a number of patients, but I had a hard day till the palp. went off. "Mother" (wife) has been sick in bed for a whole week. Is now better pretty well but not up yet. Wrote many letters this evening.

February 20: Tuesday.

Rec'd. many letters this morning. Went to Norristown to the meeting of my Subcommittee on Entertainments for the State Med. meeting in the afternoon.

Saw several very poorly patients today. Wife getting better slowly, sat up some.

February 28: Wednesday.

We are now through the winter of '83. I have gotten along very well thus far, though I had quite a belief in the Fall that I would have neuralgia in my leg again. But I

have been quite clear of it, and have practiced every day, and done a great deal of reading and writing of papers, and correspondence.

My dear wife has gotten down stairs again, and I hope now she will soon be quite well again and strong and able to visit her daughters at their homes.

Had the palpitation yesterday 3 hours, but all the time was seeing my patients. Today I have had palpitation 5 hours, and three hours of the time was out riding before I could get home.

Yesterday had a meeting of my Com. of Arrangement, to prepare for the State Soc. meeting, at Dr. Mary Stinson's House at 2 ½ P.M.

March 10: Saturday.

Have had palpitation two or 3 times since last writing. Have done a good deal of practice, written some, &c., &c.

March 12: Monday.

Rose at 6 A.M., wrote and read some, went with Follen to Consho. at 7 ½, visited around till noon, to J. Coulston and Wm. Rex's, returned at 5 P.M., posted books and read till bed time. Sold two calves.

March 13: Tuesday.

Up at 6. At Consho. with Follen ¼ before 8, returned to Charley Lewis', got his Mother's Bill, \$68. Went to J. Huston's, got his and his father-in-law's bill, \$23.00. Visited Jos. Coulston, Seth Schlater and Mrs. Walton Freas.. [Was] home by noon.

At one P.M. started to Norristown, stopped a quarter hour with daughter Tacie Cresson. Went to Dr. Whitcomb's office ( he acts as Secretary for me in the Board of Arrangement, for entertaining the Medical Society of the State. Then went to Bank, deposited \$105.00, bought half bushel Clover Seed, went to William's office, talked 10 minutes with him, got my hair and beard trimmed by a barber, had an interview with Mrs. George Corson, wife of Geo. N. Corson, my nephew. Poor woman! She is nearly heart broken by his drunkenness and his licentiousness. Wants me to write to Judge Boyer to stop him, by threatening him with dismissal from the Court if he should not do better.

At 3 o'clock went to Dr. Mary Stinson's rooms, to hold a Committee meeting. Six members of the Com. and Dr. Chase of the Hospital were present. At 4 P.M. adjourned, and I returned home, arrived at sunset. Since supper have been reading, writing and talking till now, nine P.M., and as I have scarcely slept a wink since 3 A.M., will go to bed now.

Had letters this morning from Dr. Jos. Parrish, Dr. Anna Lukens, Mrs. Caroline E. White, &c. Replied to Dr. Parrish.

March 14: Wednesday.

Went to Consho. with Follen, back at 9 A.[M.] Visited Mrs. Freas, returned, went to Philad. at 12:30 from Sp. Mill. Went to Richard Day's, then to Truss Manufactory, 5<sup>th</sup> below Walnut, then to Lawyer [empty space] office, he who married Dr. Vanhorn's daughter; then to see Thos. Adamson's & wife, then to Woman's College to attend the "Nurse's Commencement", then back to James Yocom's. Bertha got me tea. I could stay but a few minutes afterwards. Then Thomas, her son, came

with me to Callowhill St. Cars, and I was soon in the Norristown train, which moved at 7:30 P.M., and from Sp. Mill, "Matt" brot me home by 8:30. I was pretty tired, but as I found all well, this mattered not.

March 25: Thursday.

Attended patients, Coulston, Rex, Freas, Schlater, &c. till noon, after having gone with Follen to "Conshie." After dinner, posted books, directed the work of Matt and the boy, Herman. I had promised, if convenient, to attend the Woman's College Commencement today, if possible to do it. "Mother & Mary" [are] pretty well today. Follen had a letter from Joseph, read it to us this evening.

I ought here to sum up my palpitations for 2 weeks or more: On Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>, from 8 A.M. to 10 ½ A.M.. Rode and practiced all the time till it went off next day, 28<sup>th</sup>. Had it 5 hours.

March 17: Saturday.

Evening. Yesterday, practiced and posted books, &c., &c. Dr. H. H. Whitcomb came after dinner to see me about our coming Banquet for State Med. Soc.

Today, I went with Follen to Consho. (He goes to Philad. every day, save Sunday, at 8 A.M. I generally take him down to Consho.). John Fulmer was waiting for me, to go visit his son. Went over, mile & a half beyond the river.

Stopped to see Dr. McKinsy [sic] (my former student) and also Esq. Simons who collects for me. When I returned to P. O., Chris Fleah was waiting for me to see his wife, ill with paralysis. Got home at 11 A.[M.]. D. Lewis was in haste to have me visit his wife. Did so. Then [went] to see Mrs. Walton Freas, with cancer of womb, then to see his mother with hernia. Was back to dinner at 12:20.

Went to Jos. Coulston to see him at 2 P.[M.]. Was at Norristown at 3, paid short visit to W. Cresson & Tacie; then to my niece Mary Roberts; then to Geo. N. Corson's to see his wife. George is doing badly, drinking greatly; then to see John, who is renting houses for me; then to brother William's. Had a brief talk there with Dr. Ellwood M. Corson, Dr. Ramsey, and then with Mr. Hurst. Then went to my nephew Geo. Lenzie for a package; then to pay \$54.09 for feed, then Lizzie Eghart \$12.88 for mantua making; then to Black Smith to get a "clip" on wagon; then for home. Stopped at G<sup>t</sup>. Stemple's to see his wife. Home by 6 ¼. Then after supper, Follen, Mary & their mother, went to call on Mrs. Emily Corson. While they were away, I finished posting my books, and just finished as they got home at 10 P.M.

March 23: Friday.

Nothing of unusual interest occurred in the fore-part of this week, but on Wednesday morning, there was an early movement of the Corson's to go to N.J. to attend the wedding of Walter Corson, son of E. H. Corson & wife to Anna Albertson, daughter of Chalkley Albertson, of Camden Co., N.J. There were about a hundred people present. The marriage took place in accordance with the Friends Ceremony at 4 P.M. The rooms were darkened and lamps lighted. Two Ministers, Friends, spoke briefly on the occasion and then there was a general hand shaking, &c., &c. At 5 ½, brother Wm. Corson and myself took a lunch and then the Cars from Atlantic City, to the Steamboat, then to the city and at 6:35 P.M., the cars at 9<sup>th</sup> and Green for home, where I arrived at 7 ½ P.M.



Follen and Thomas Hovenden and his wife, my niece Helen Corson, staid till all the eating was over and did not reach home till near 1 A.M. of the next day. It was a very genteel company and every thing passed off satisfactorily. Walter and his wife came along with our folks to Philad., then went on to Washington, intending to return to their home on Saturday next.

It is snowing rapidly now, 4 P.M., from the East, and the last two days have been very cold, as low as 14°, &c. It has moderated greatly and is now at 30°.

Frannie has been here spending the day, and very pleasant she has been. Little Charley was with her.

March 27: Tuesday.

Today while in Norristown, my nephew, Dr. Ellwood M. Corson, informed me of the death of Dr. Schrack. It was a shock to me, as I had been with him in a meeting of the committee of arrangement for entertaining the Medical Society of the State, and he was then in full health, and as kind and genial as ever. Nor had I heard of his illness. He died of pneumonia, under the fatal treatment now in vogue. I then suggested, and had measures taken, to have a meeting called on Thursday to take measures in relation to his funeral and to express the feelings of the Society in relation to him.

March 29: Thursday.

Today at 2 P.M. met in the Hall, our usual place of meeting. About 20 members [were] present. The cause of the meeting was stated by the President. Dr. E. M. Corson spoke of his being called to see Dr. Schrack, after he had been several days sick, and finding him dying. He had had no proper treatment or care either. Dr. Styles also made some remarks in reference to his character, spoke strongly and kindly of his excellent qualities. Then a Committee was appointed to draft resolutions. Dr. Alice Bennett, seeing that the Committee made no move to do it, but talked of another meeting to secure them, asked that the Committee report now. My hearing being very dull, I did not know what had been said. After a long silence, Dr. Styles came to me for help to draw them. I then drew from my pocket a paper which was written last evening to read before the Society, if no one else should have prepared a better or more fitting one. I also had a few resolutions prepared by Follen. These were read, approved and ordered to be published in the Norristown Newspapers, and also presented to the family, and I was made the Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions of Condolence, &c., &c. I append a copy of my papers, as published.

**Editor's note:** A newspaper clipping detailing the meeting and resolution offered in Eulogy of Dr. Schrack is in the diary loose.

A committee of 12 to act as Pall-Bearers was appointed. I desired the President to not appoint brother William & myself.

Follen brought Mr. Mayne home with him this evening. He is a young lawyer who rents a part of Follen's office. He is a fine formed handsome, young man, and Follen says a very good fellow.

March 31: Saturday.

After practicing in the forenoon, I went to Norristown, getting there at 1 P.M. At 1 ½. Lewis W. Read, my nephew, came with a two-horse carriage and took Wm. & myself to Dr. Schrack's funeral. It was very unpleasant underfoot, as there was a few inches of snow, which was thawing enough to make the roads "horrible." About 20 doctors, two of whom were Mary Stinson and Dr. Alice Bennett of the Hospital. The clergymen, two of them, headed the procession; then my brother and Dr. Wile [S. N. Wiley], President of our Medical Society; then Dr. L. W. Read and myself; then the "pall-bearers" doctors; then behind them the balance of the doctors; then relatives & friends. And so we went about 300 yards to their private cemetery. Their were a great many people there.

April 5: Thursday.

Nothing special has occurred since last writing, save that yesterday, Mother and myself went to Norristown, I to meet my Committee of Arrangement, to examine and perfect the programme for the State meeting; she to buy things, and then both of us to take tea with "Will" and daughter Tacie Cresson.

This evening Follen has gone to a reception at Emily Corson's, in honor of Walter's wife. 80 [were] invited. Mary is invited but prefers to remain in the City and finish her visit.

Dr. Shrawder has been here for an hour, came to advise with me about the propriety of settling as a physician near the place occupied by Doctor Schrack.

April 7: Saturday.

Met Dr. Shrawder in Norristown today. He has decided to establish himself in practice at Kennedy's Hollow, to get Dr. Schrack's practice.

April 9: Monday.

I had palpitation all day Saturday, from six A.M. to 9 ½ P.[M.], then from 10 ½ P.[M.] for half hour. Was going all day moderately. Slept none all night, but slept 3 hours Sunday, from 11 A.[M.] to 2 P.M. Then was up till 11 ½ P.M., and up again this morning at 5 ½. Have been active all day today. Went at 3 P.[M.] to Bank to make a deposit and to meet my committee to arrange for State Society meeting, but got a pain in my side. Ellwood gave me ½ gr. Morph. by Hypodermic syringe., and without going to meet the Committee came home. Am well now (9 P.[M.]

April 14: Saturday.

Have been well all the past week; last evening we were at Mr. Lovenden's to a reception given to Walter H. Corson and wife. I mean Follen, Mary and myself were there. Wife could not go on account of pain in the side.

I do but little practice, and during the last week, but little writing or reading. Indeed for more than fifty years, I have never been so free from care and business. My life has been of the busiest kind, and I was liable to be called any minute, I never felt that I could put off doing at once what was to be done, for fear that some demands on my time would prevent their being done at all. Had a letter from Joseph yesterday. All [are] well and comfortable, [and] pleased with the place, Jefferson Barracks, Missouri.

We have just returned from Wm. Livezey's, our neighbor, where Aunt Rachel Maulsby died today of old age, at the age of 84 years. I have known her all her life. She was the daughter of Saml. Livezey, a preacher among Friends, a fine, good woman. At this hour last evening, she walked up-stairs to bed, as usual. Had no disease.

April 23: Monday.

Dr. Joseph Leidy's Birth Place.

A few days since, I was writing my "address of welcome" to the State Medical Society, which will convene at Norristown May 9<sup>th</sup>, and wrote a brief eulogium of Prof. Joseph Leidy, the great Scientist. Since then I have written to Dr. Leidy to know if he was really born in Montgomery County. I had claimed him as one of our Citizens. He has replied that he was not born here, indeed never had a home here, but that his father was born here and lived in the County till he was 21 years old. This is his letter:

Dear Dr.

Ap. 20, 1883

In answer to yours of April 15<sup>th</sup>, my father was born and lived in Montgomery Co. He settled in Philadelphia, after he arrived at 21; and in this City I was born. My mother, in like manner, was born in Columbia Co. and came to this City after she had arrived at the years of womanhood. Most of my father's family belonged to Montgomery Co.; and my mother's family to Columbia Co.

With kind regards, I am at your

Further service

Joseph Leidy.

Philadelphia, 1302 Filbert St.

This was a disappointment to me. I had claimed him as one of the great men of our County, had pointed to his birth place and early home, and have found he was not one of us. But as I felt that I could not let him go, I referred to him, after I had spoken of David Rittenhouse, as follows:

And again come with me a few miles further, yet still within our County, and we shall be in the region, selected a century ago, by emigrants from the Fatherland, in which to dwell in peace and to worship without molestation moral, frugal, industrious and promoters of education, they have enriched and beautified our County, have given two Governors to the Commonwealth, and to our profession a man, greater than governors, endeared to us all; one known and honored the world over, wherever Science is cultivated;

Need I pronounce the name of Dr. Joseph Leidy, a scientist unsurpassed on this or any other age or country.

**Editor's note:** The above was part of Dr. Corson's welcoming address in which he gave a brief history of Montgomery County, mentioned specifically the "Oakland Institute" for girls, the Treemount Seminary for young men, and Lydia Darrah who supposedly saved Washington from being captured by the British in December, 1777. In addition to mentioning historic Barren Hill and Valley Forge, he had much to say about John James Audubon and David Rittenhouse. The complete, printed address is pasted in the diary,

along with the program of the thirty-fourth annual session of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania in Norristown, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>, 1883.

May 9: Wednesday.

Meeting of The Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania.

The meeting convened in Music Hall, Norristown, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1883 at 10 o'clock, though 9 was the hour named. After a few preliminaries, I read my "Address of Welcome." I file a copy here.

The Medical Meeting lasted three days and was a success as regards numbers, being the largest meeting ever held by the Society. The Banquet in Music Hall, the first evening, was a grand affair, costing \$500 and was paid for by Montgomery Co. Med. Soc. The next evening there were three private receptions, of which the finest was at Miss Mary Stinson, M.D.'s house, where there were nearly 30 women doctors. I was specially invited to be at all of them, but particularly did Dr. Stinson want me to be at her house, as the women doctors were all desirous to see me, as I had so long and earnestly, and I may say successfully, labored for their recognition by the profession. It was quite a brilliant reception. The third day was spent at the Eastern Hospital for the Insane, where we also had a fine collation.

Dr. E. A. Wood and Dr. Gallaher of Pittsburgh staid with me every night. Dr. Parrish, Dr. Joseph Parrish I mean, was at daughter Tacie Cresson's, as were others.

June 17: Sunday.

Since last writing, I have had five pretty severe spells of palpitation, though I had not had a single one for several weeks previous to our meeting of May 9<sup>th</sup>.

May [space] I had one for [space] hours.

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, I went to the meeting of the Medical Society of the State of New Jersey, at Atlantic City, by invitation of that Society. My nephew, Dr. Ellwood M. Corson went with me, as did Dr. Whitcomb and Robert R. Corson. Had a pleasant meeting, a great Banquet, excursion to South Atlantic City to see the Elephant, &c. Returned Wednesday evening.

The week before I attended the funeral of Mrs. John Spencer, whom I had seen twice in consultation with Dr. Evans. Have had other most interesting consultations with Drs. McKinsy [McKenzie] and with Dr. Bunting, and my nephew Dr. Ellwood M. Corson.

We have had Bertha and Frannie here two or three times within a month, and little Georgie Yocom and Bertha Day are here now, have been here about two weeks, happy and kind with each other.

Susan and Jawood [sic] are here now. Tacie was here last week. So it goes. They come to see us often, and it is pleasant to have them.

July 4: Wednesday.

I awakened last night at 2 ½ A.M. with palpitation of Heart. It lasted me till after 2 P.M. today. While it was on me, I went to see Mrs. Freas, and wrote several letters, and after it went off, I answered letters I had rec'd. and did a good deal of reading.

July 5: Thursday.

Rec'd. a letter from Dr. George Hamilton, who has for several years been a warm friend and admirer of me, because of my medical writings. I have had a number of very complimentary letters from him. One rec'd. yesterday written on receiving one from me in relation to his two articles in opposition to the popular opinion that Typhoid Fever is caused by the sewer gas, I pin here.

July 6: Friday.

Visit to the Eastern Hospital for Insane. I have been very anxious to have Dr. Traill Green and Robt. A. Lamberton L.L.D., President of Lehigh University, both of them members with me of the Board of Trustees of the Lunatic Hospital at Harrisburg, to visit the Eastern Hospital at Norristown, before we shall again meet at Harrisburg on the 12<sup>th</sup> of this month, so that they may see the grand management by the Female physician of her nearly 500 insane women. I append here the letter of Dr. Lamberton in reply to my pressing invitation to them. It will be seen that Dr. Green could not come.

I met Dr. L. at the Main St. depot, Norristown, and took him over in my carriage. There we met 12 of the 13 trustees, it being their monthly meeting day. They are a body of fine large men, and are working very efficiently and harmoniously. Having been for quite a number of years personally acquainted with Gov. Hartranft, Judge Stinson, Lawyer Addison May, Dr. Edward A. Martin, Col. James Boyd & Saml. Bines, we were warmly welcomed.

Dr. Lamberton & myself were first taken through the female department by Dr. Alice Bennett. When half way around, we were joined by Mr. Joel Cook, of the Public Ledger," and his wife. After getting through that half of the building, we were escorted by Dr. Robert Chase through the male department.

A most interesting feature of the management here, as well as on the female side, is the system of employment of inmates. Eighty men were engaged in grading the grounds. There is a vast amount of grading to be done. They work well, are happy to do it.. One of them, an old friend of mine, lays out walks and completes them along the back part of the wards. Seventy are engaged in brush making. 40 are employed in work about the Hospital. There are also Carpenters, Printers, Shoemakers, &c., &c., in all 358 in a population of 500, the per cent is about 72 when all are counted.

Many little privileges are accorded them, such as greater freedom, a light lunch between meals at times, &c. The effect manifested by better order, better appetites, and sounder sleep is strongly marked. No medication could produce such good effects on these chronic Insane and some of the acute cases.

After a dinner with the Trustees, Physicians and a few visitors, Dr. Lamberton left me to take the 2:15 P.M. train at the foot of the Lawn, for home, and I took myself off by means of my carriage.. Stopped at Tacie's and brot my granddaughter Carrie Corson Cresson home with me. It was a hard days work, as I had visited patients, and gone to Conshohocken before getting to Norristown at 10 A.M.

I may here, with propriety, state some facts in relation to the "getting-up" of this hospital on a plan differing from all others in the U. States, without, I hope, being accused of Egotism.

Some years ago, I rec'd. from a friend, a Report made by Dr. Wilbur of Syracuse, New York, on the construction and management of Hospitals for the Insane in England.

I was delighted to find from it, that hospitals were economicall[y] constructed, and made only two stories high, while ours were built at an expense of millions and made four or even five stories high. And what was most gratifying in the management was the fact that there was great freedom of restraint and that a majority of the patients were daily employed at some light industries.

At a social gathering at the house of Mr. Geo. L. Harrison, then President of the Board of Public Charities of Pa., I mentioned the subject of a reform in building Hospitals and in the management of the Insane. As he could not stay with me, having so many visitors to entertain, members of the Senate and House were there and many prominent Philadelphians, he called Mr. Francis Wells of the "Evening Bulletin" and my friend Dr. Andrew Nebinger to hear me on the subject of the treatment of the Insane at Gheel<sup>xix</sup> in Belgium, and also on the employment of the Insane in England.

At the next meeting of the State Medical Society held in Philad., Dr. John Curwen read a paper on the condition and management of the Insane. I do not remember the title. And when he had finished, he desired to have a committee of seven persons appointed to memorialize the Legislature to appropriate money to build another Hospital in the Eastern part of the State. When he had taken his seat, I enquired of him, why we were building hospitals at such immense expense and keeping our insane confined in cells while in England, they build economically and endeavor to employ the patients, that out of four hundred inmates in one hospital, 300 were employed. This statement was quite astonishing to the members of the State Society, and Dr. Curwen denied it in-twos. But the Committee to memorialize was appointed and I was made one of the members.

In the next Summer or Fall, Dr. Curwen, who was chairman of the Committee, came around with his "Memorial" to have the different members, one from Del., Chester, Montgry., Berks, Bucks, Lancaster & Lehigh & Northampton, each sign it. Chester & Delaware had signed. I would not because he, in making the "District," had left out Philad. He was greatly disappointed, but finally got all the others.

I, after he left me, wrote to Dr. Washington Atlee and others that if Philad. did not move in the matter, the City would not be included in the District, and suggested that we have the law so framed that we need not have it built on "the plan of the Am. Med. Assoc. of Superintendents" as all the others had been. The result was that, that Lancaster & Berks counties were stricken out of the District and Philad. City and county included and the Act establishing the Hospital left it free for the Commissioners to build on the plan deemed by them best.

When the Commissioners appointed by the Governor to build the Hospital issued a circular asking for plans, much pains were taken to let them understand that an approach to the English plan, of two stories, with accommodation for employment of the inmates, would be favorably considered.

Dr. Thomas G. Morton of Philad., being one of the Commissioners, I took much trouble to supply him with Dr. Wilbur's various writings on the subject, together with Reports of others of the reformers in the English construction and management. The result was the present building.

And now we come to the statement of the causes, which led to the present organization & management.

July 8: Sunday.

In the early part of June 1877 as we had then succeeded in carrying before the State Society at a former meeting, the recognition of women physicians as legitimate members of our profession, and allowing to all our members the right & privilege to consult with them, I concluded, as I was not very well, not to go to the annual meeting, then near at hand. But, as I sat reflecting on what we had accomplished in a few years, by steady work, it occurred to me that the time had now fully come that women should be more than recognized as members of the profession, that there were many situations occupied by men physicians that could be better filled with women doctors. I had been some time a member of the Board of Trustees of the Lunatic Hospital at Harrisburg, and had been much annoyed to see that all the women, young and old, were under the care of two, or generally one quite young doctor, male. I was then acquainted with several female doctors, much their superior, intellectually, of better attainments, and infinitely better endowed for such care and supervision. I at once resolved to move in that direction. So, a few evenings before the day of the meeting of the State Society on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 77, I wrote the following "Preamble & Resolution:

Whereas, The State Medical Society has taken a deep interest in the welfare of the insane during the past few years, as is evidenced by the efforts which it has put forth for the founding of Asylums; and

Whereas, The inmates of our State Hospitals are composed of nearly equal numbers of the two sexes; and

Whereas, We now have many female physicians who are eminent practitioners, and some who have had experience in the medical management of the insane, therefore

Resolved, That a committee of three persons be appointed by the President of this Society to report to the meeting to be held in May 1878, on the propriety of having a female superintendent for the female department of every hospital for the insane which is under the control of the State.

The Transactions of the State Society of that year say that this Resolution & Amendments "were presented by Dr. Washington L. Atlee on behalf of Dr. Hiram Corson who was absent." See page 412, Transactions State Med. Society, 1877 "They were unanimously adopted."

"The President appointed as the Committee:

1. Dr. Hiram Corson of Montgomery, Chairman;
2. Dr. Andrew Nebinger, of Philad.;
3. Dr. R. L. Sibbett [Sibbet] of Cumberland."

Although it is recorded that the Resolution was unanimously adopted, the truth is that there were but few votes in its favor, and though none openly against it, there was a strong feeling of opposition in the meeting that afterwards got private expression.

There was another significant fact. The com. had placed upon it, doubtless to antagonize me, Dr. Nebinger who for several years had been the Orator of the party opposed to the recognition of women, and many a bout we had in conventions during a

period of half a dozen years. He was therefore selected no doubt to make report against it. Dr. Sibbett was not openly an advocate for women, but not greatly opposed.

But, the Committee being formed, and knowing that the report must be written by myself, I began to look about for proofs of woman's capacity for such duty, and for whatever facts would aid me in making a report that would favorably influence the Society. When I had put into form what I had procured and my thoughts on the subject, I wrote to Dr. Sibbett, to examine the manuscript. I felt pretty sure that he would go with me in most of my views. Where he doubted, or differed, he was invited to suggest changes. How I was disappointed, when he wrote to me expressing dissent from much of it. He began to improve it in several places, but finally gave it up as involving too much labor and sent it back without his signature., adding that we would see each other about it at the next meeting in Pittsburgh. I now had a dull prospect before me. The one on whom I relied for co-operation had failed me., the other was my old antagonist who, defeated before, might now gain a victory by opposition. Strong in my convictions of the truth and justice of my report, I concluded to go with it to my old friend and on the woman business my opposer and lay it before him. So, hieing to Philad., I was soon before him in his office. He was one of the many physicians of Philad. whom I admired. I loved him, I may say for his manliness, his fearlessness in defending his convictions, and his frank open manner. He listened patiently to the reading, and then, or rather, before I began, I told him of Dr. Sibbetts objections, so that he might weigh them as against me if he thought proper. His reply to me when I had finished was, Doctor, I will sign it without the dot of an i, or the cross of a t, sign it as it stands but not if any of Dr. Sibbett's changes are made. We then signed it as it was, and I came [away] very proud that I had a name to my report which would not be looked-for there; and having which, I could afford to do without the name of my good friend Sibbett, who from that day, six years ago, has been one of my warmest, best friends.

At the meeting in May 1878, in Pittsburgh, we met and he finding that Dr. Nebinger had signed it, Dr. Sibbett also signed it.

I read the report and the Resolution appended to it. It was rec'd. by a very small vote and a few votes "against its reception."

The Resolution was as follows:

Resolved, That a Committee of seven be appointed by the President of the Society to memorialize the Legislature to enact laws, if any be needed, to authorize the employment by managers of hospitals, under control of the State, of women medical superintendents for female departments of said hospitals, and for hospitals to be erected for the accommodation of females.

The resolution passed.

The Report can be found at page 167 to 179 of Transactions of Pa. State Medical Society held at Pittsburgh, May 1878. On the above Committee there were appointed seven persons, namely

Drs. Hiram Corson, Montgomery Co.,  
E. A. Wood, Allegheny,  
R. L. Sibbett, Cumberland,  
A. Nebinger, Philadelphia,  
Traill Green, Northampton,



I. N. Kerlin, Delaware,  
Benjamin Lee, Philadelphia.

Being thus, again, assigned to the duty of memorializing the Legislature, it was incumbent on me if I hoped for success, to acquaint the members of the Legislature with the facts in relation to treatment of the Insane, and to call their attention to the fact that the physician who under the laws of this State has charge of hundreds of Insane people, has so many other duties that he can really devote almost no time and give no attention to his patients, and also to show them the great propriety of having insane women exclusively treated by female physicians.

Knowing how important would it be, to have accompanying our memorial, a petition from our Board of Trustees of the Lunatic Hospital at Harrisburg, I gave to each member of the Board a copy of our report made to the State Society at Pittsburgh, and had frequent interviews with the members individually, and presented to them the subject in the light in which I saw it. Having pretty fully canvassed the subject with them, I offered to the Board at its meeting in January 1879, the following preamble and resolution, which received the vote of every member save that of Dr. John L. Atlee, 8 ayes to one nay.

I then sent to every member of the Senate and House a copy of our report "on the propriety of having a female physician to have the medical charge of the female Insane. I sent copies also to prominent men throughout the State and wrote numerous letters to physicians in the Counties, to influence their Representatives in favor of the Bill which we might present.

I then placed in the hands of Representative Wm. B. Roberts of Montgomery County the documents which we had ready for his use in presenting the case, viz.,

1<sup>st</sup> The Report to the State Med. Society;

2<sup>nd</sup> The Memorial of the Committee appointed by the State Med. Soc., signed by six of us;

3<sup>rd</sup> The Preamble and Resolution passed by the Board of the Trustees of the State Lunatic Hospital at Harrisburg.

All three matters are fully set forth in our Memorial to be found at page 534 of the minutes of the annual meeting, in the Transactions of the Medical Society of Pa. in 1879.

The "Act" which we prepared, or rather the Bill which we prepared for Mr. Roberts (one of my own) will be found at page 535-63, ann. Transactions.

The lower House passed the Bill without dissent, but in the Senate, it was met by a protest signed by 70 physicians of Philad., and the Senate reported it adversely.

Our memorial signed by all the members but Dr. Kerlin (himself a superintendent and he made a minority Report), may be found at page 534-5 as stated, and the

1. Protest of the Philadelphia doctors at 536;
2. (My) our Comments on the protest at 536-7;
3. The Preamble and Resolution of the Lunatic Hospital, at 536, the report ending on page 538, signed by Corson, Nebinger, Traill Green, Sibbett, Wood and Lee. And on the last page (538) comes the
4. Protest, or Minority Report, signed by Dr. Kerlin, and the action had on the subject.

When we made our report to the meeting in Chester 1879, the Bill was still in the Senate, and opposed by seventy Philad. Doctors. Before the Legislature

adjourned, the Bill became a Law. It is as follows. As prepared by me and presented and urged by Representative Roberts, it read thus:

An Act for the better regulation and treatment of the female Insane in the asylums and hospitals of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

1 Sec. I. Be it enacted by the Senate and House  
2 of Representatives, &c., &c.: That in all hospitals  
3 or asylums now built (or hereafter to be built)  
4 and under control of the State, and in which  
5 male and female patients are received for  
6 treatment, it shall be the duty of the trustees  
7 of said hospitals or asylums to appoint a  
8 female superintendent who shall be a  
9 skillful physician and who shall reside in  
10 said asylum or hospital, and who shall  
11 have entire medical control of said female  
12 inmates.

1 Sec. II. The said female superintendent shall  
2 be appointed by said Trustees for a  
3 term of not exceeding five years and shall not be subject to removal within that  
term except for infidelity to the trust reposed, or for incompetency.

Sec. III. The Act shall take effect as to asylums and hospitals already built in one year from the date of its passage.

Sec. IV. That all Acts and parts of Acts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act be and they are hereby repeated.

There were some changes made. The Act finally passed was as follows:  
It was the same as the above. As far as the word treatment in the 6<sup>th</sup> line, it then read:  
“The trustees of said asylums or hospitals may appoint a skillful female physician, who shall reside in the (House) Asylum or Hospital, and who shall have the medical control of said female inmates, who shall report to the superintendent and also to the Trustees.”

In Sec. II of the Act as passed, the word superintendent in the first line is changed to physician. And in the 3<sup>rd</sup> line, the word less is changed to exceeding and than is stricken out.

Sec. III & Sec. IV are not changed.

July 28: Saturday.

Went to Conshohocken rather late this morning. There rec'd. a telegram from Follen from Pittsburgh that he would be up in the 11 A.M. train. So called at Spring Mill and waited for him. He came [because] he had become somewhat alarmed about mother, from my letters, and had started sooner than he expected, or intended to. He came home quite well.

July 29: Sunday.

On Sunday evening just before bed-time, Joseph came in, greatly to our astonishment. He had gotten uneasy about his mother and so started off on Saturday. We were very glad to see him. Mother was not at home, having gone down to Jaywood Lukens to spend the day with Susan.

August 5: Sunday.

Joseph has staid with us all the week. He looks very well, seems in the best of health and is apparently very happy.

I have been very busy preparing for the visit to Amhurst to the meeting of the Dickinson Family. Have had many letters to write and many to answer. We seem now to have fairly connected all the Pa. Dickinsons and the Virginia Dickinsons. I had a letter yesterday from Dr. Dickinson of Marion, Va., in reply to one of mine, which gave him an account of their line ancestors, which I supposed that he could not trace far back. The last one that I had brought it to, is now living and quite a prominent man he says.

The weather has been most remarkably cool this summer and is today. Thick clothes are very comfortable. Now nearly 9 A.M., the Thermometer marks 67°.

My wife is much improved in health.

August 6: Monday.

I have been, all the afternoon, getting ready to go to meet the Dickinson Family at Amhurst, Mass. tomorrow. Hope to be back on Thursday night to report.

August 11: Saturday.

"The Dickinson Family" meeting on Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1883.

Left home Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> to take the 6:30 A.M. train to Philad. At Columbia Avenue met brother William ready to go with me to Amhurst in Massachusetts. In two hours after leaving Philad., by Express, we were in New York. Taking the Elevated Rail Road, we were soon at the "Grand Central Depot," in 42<sup>nd</sup> St. Spent an hour there, took a lunch, and at 11 A.M. took the train for Northampton. Reached New Haven at a little after one P.M. Just after we left that City, I was struck by palpitation of the heart. I said nothing to brother William, but cont'd. to sit up. We were in the Parlor Cars till we arrived at Northampton at 4 P.M. Here we took the Stage Coach for Amhurst. It was full before we reached it, and we were compelled to go on the top. There were nine on top, besides the driver, and I was on the highest back seat. So we were nearly two hours going the six miles. I was weak and tired. My heart still beating 160 times per minute. My umbrella kept off the Sun's beams, and as there was a slight breeze, and the road most excellent, the ride improved me. The sight of old Hadley also delighted me, with the sight of the most beautiful street I have ever seen. A width of perhaps 40 feet of grass in the center, then a narrow, smooth roadway on each side, then perhaps 20 feet of grass again on each side up to the doors of the houses. As we approached Amhurst, were indeed just passing the Old College Hall, a jerk in my breast announced to me that the palpitation was over. In a moment I felt the relief, and as we halted before the "Amhurst House," I felt quite well, but very weak and tired. Took Supper. Met Frank Dickinson, Wharton Dickinson, and others, all strangers to me, save that I have corresponded a good deal with Frank & Wharton. Lodgings had been engaged for us a few doors away, and

so we made our way there, where we were pleased to find my niece Dr. Sarah R. A. Dolley and Miss Guernsey, her friend from Rochester, N. York State. I went to bed early, about 9 P.M. and soon after I was down, found myself weak and oppressed slightly, by an irregularity of the heart. It would beat then stop long enough to have given another, then could come a second, then stop & so on. I was on my back, turned on my left side, but no amendment. Soon it would beat twice, then pause, sometimes three, then pause. I felt as if my life were hanging by a slender thread indeed. So it, the heart, struggled on for about an hour. Then I turned on my right side and soon there was a change for [the] better. It would beat 8 or 10 times, then pause, &c. Finally [it] passed away, but I did not sleep till one o'clock Wednesday morning.

I was up at 6 A.M., was at the place of meeting, the old "College Hall," now a church, a fine large building, from the top of which there is a splendid view of the Connecticut River valley and Mount Holyoke in the distance.

This Hall was well filled, and some even were in the gallery. The Family numbered about [space] hundreds. Seldom, if ever, have I seen a more Genteel and intelligent body of people, of that number, together. The exercises, as announced by the Programme, were conducted in order.

The Historical Address by Rev'd. Charles Dickinson was an interesting paper, so were other papers. By one P.M., all those were finished. Then we passed into the basement, where the hundreds sat down to dinner, to the tune of \$1.00 per plate. It was a brief informal affair, each one leaving the table as soon as he had finished, so that others might come to the table., After dinner, all of us were grouped in front of the Hall and photographed. After that business was resumed. I was down for the first address, but as I found that Wharton Dickinson of Scranton, Pa., who had furnished me with nearly all the information I possess in relation to the Dickinsons, save those of Plymouth, our near relatives, and as I found also that his address, which was to follow mine, occupied the same ground as mine, I thought it would not be right that I should read mine, and thus render his only a repetition. So I, when called, excused myself, on the ground of sickness of the previous night and a fear that the excitement, as labor of delivering it, might provoke another attack. Wharton Dickinson then read his sketch of our lines of Dickinsons from 1654 to the present time, ending his line with himself and ours with me. Two or three other short addresses were then made by the Dickinsons, and the last one a reply toast. Our Friends of the Old Dominion was replied to by my nephew, George N. Corson, brother Charles' son, attorney at Law. He was slightly inebriated and spoke too loudly, and evidently attempted to be elegant without caring for the subject. It was a poor effort, in the presence of finished and educated speakers and listeners. Adjourned at 5 P.M. to supper and then to a reception in the Hall at 8, to continue till 10 P.M. There was a crowded house again and much exchange of good feeling towards every body.

Harry Dickinson, a lawyer of Norristown, was with Geo. N. Corson, and he drank too much throughout the day, and as his mother and his grandmother were both very vulgar women, and he, much like them. And as brother Wm. and myself had been mortified by their conduct during the day, and as we dreaded to go to the "picnic," to the old Hadley and Mount Holyoke next day, lest they might deport themselves still more obnoxiously there, we made up our minds to start home in the morning.

So, I was up next morning at 5 o'clock, got William up, and at 6:14 left Amhurst

for ever, I suppose. At P.M., we were at our respective homes and glad of it. All the family were glad to see me. I felt very well all day, and had no weariness of moment when I reached home.

Several letters awaited me. One from Emeritus Professor Henry H. Smith, M.D., President of the State Medical Society for the present year, consulting me on the propriety of getting some of the best women physicians to write medical papers for the Society to be read at its next meeting; another from Dr. George Hamilton with three medical Records, containing articles referring to his essay on sewer gas; a third, from Genl. Hartranft, containing the opinion of the Board of Trustees in relation to the working of the Hospital at Norristown, also papers, &c., &c.

A man was struck, by an attendant, and his jaw fractured. It was as, I think, neglected, suppurated, caused pyemia and death. The people [are] much excited; denunciations of the management are plenty. The attendant for whom a large reward is offered, came voluntarily, with his father and a neighbor, all from near Catskill [sic] Mountain, to Follen's office, and desire him to see to his case. He sent him up to be sent to jail in Norristown [and] is not trying to have him bailed.

August 14: Tuesday.

At 4 A.M., I was attacked by palpitation again. I had as much as I could do to stand up, when I first rose in the morning, but I went to give Mrs. Freas a hypo of 2 ½ grs. morph. (which I give twice daily), then again at noon. It was bad with me till 1 P.M., when it left me.

August 19: Sunday.

On Friday last, at 10 ½ A.M., met Bertha and her children at Spring Mill and brot them up to stay here a week or two while wife and Mary go to Atlantic City, for "a change." Wife has not been well.

At 1 P.M. they left home, and Follen met them in Philad. and went with them to the sea. They "stopped" at the "Wetherill House." Bertha and her children, Frannie, Bertha, Georgie, Hiram and Dorothea, are all here. Thomas is at Jaywood Lukens'.

Soon as "Mother" (wife) got off almost, while I was gone to Sp. Mill with her, our woman Catherine asked Bertha leave to go away a short time. She went, got a pint of Whisky and was back in half an hour. During the evening I saw that she was a little "fuddled." Next morning she told me she would "stay till Mrs. Corson comes home; then I will leave. After harvest I thought I would have it easier. Now I have Mrs. Yocom and all her children here. I wont stay." I had intended not to say anything offensive to her, as she seemed only slightly intoxicated, and she is so valuable to us in common, but I could not stand that. So I said Catherine, "if I can't have my daughter & her children here while you are here, you well have to leave, I am boss here, so far as there is any boss."

She was surprised. Bertha after breakfast went out and wanted to know how she could help her, and so they got along admirably through the day, but she had taken so much just after breakfast that she had to lie-by awhile.

**Editor's note:** At this point in the diary and the next page, several items are pasted, including the letter from Professor Smith referred to earlier. Because this letter gives

great insight into the mindset of physicians in Philadelphia in 1883, it is reproduced as an endnote.<sup>xx</sup> Others are communications from Dr. Morton of 1421 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, and from Philip C. Garrett, Chairman, Committee on Lunacy of the Board of Public Charities. Also pasted are two newspaper clippings, "THE RECOLLECTIONS OF THE LATE WILLIAM W. TAYLOR – A SERIES OF INTERESTING REMINISCENSES" and "THE CONCLUSIONS OF W. W. TAYLOR'S INTERESTING NARRATIVE." The diary entries are written on the margin of the page.

I knew William well [referring to William W. Taylor]. Once went to his house and removed a Tumor from the eye-brow of his daughter. Speaks of taking Slave of Charles Corson's house and brother taking her to Bucks county.

We have kept a good many slaves in our office beds at night. At one time we had eleven persons, adults, girls & boys of ages varying from quite young to eighteen. As the weather was warm, they slept in the straw mow.

A slave taken along with a rope around his neck.

My brother George Corson was coming, from my brother Charles Corson's, along the back road by Dr. Roger Davis', and over took a man on horseback who had a negro following having a rope around his neck, and the end tied to the man's saddle. George remonstrated with him and wanted to know by what authority he was acting. He said the man was a slave, who had escaped from him, from Va. or Maryland, I do not know which, and that "Esq. Vanderslice of Phenixville [sic] had given him a warrant to arrest him." George rode on to Norristown before him and when he got there, had him brot before a "Justice of the Peace." The Norristown people on hearing of the arrest were quite indignant, that the man had been stopped. He was allowed to go on & George had to pay the cost, and be in their scorn. H.C.

August 27: Monday.

Saturday last I went to Atlantic City to see wife and Mary. There were thousands of people on the "board walk," and scattered through town thousands more. I left there at 5:10 P.M. and was at home at 8 ½ P.M. Mother and Mary concluded to remain.

August 29: Wednesday.

I went to Harrisburg at 4:42 from Bridgeport, found Traill Green at Reading, and as we rode to Harrisburg, we agreed on the course to pursue in order to elect a woman to be chief physician in place of Dr. Cleaves, whose time will expire with the month of August. They sent a carriage from the hospital to meet us at the depot, and take us to the hospital, but we went to the "Lochiel." There we met Dr. Lamberton at 10 o'clock, after we had had supper, and held a conference in my room. We resolved to move the election of Dr. Jane K. Garver, who has been assistant to Dr. Cleaves for three years, to be chief. We knew that the Superintendent, & Dr. Atlee, had been busy trying to win over some trustees to place Dr. Gerhard over the women's part, as well as over the men's side of the house, and had quite a fear that they might succeed.

August 30: Thursday.

Election of Dr. Jane Garver.

Met at the Hospital at 9 A.M.; all present but Mr. Henry Gilbert, who was sick. As he was on our side, his absence endangered our success. Dr. Atlee, and Messieurs Bailey and Jennings of Harrisburg, had put into the hands of Mr. Pomeroy, a resolution asking or declaring that "we the trustees delegate to Dr. Gerhard, the entire charge of all the patients," thus doing away with our women physicians. Dr. Lamberton reminded the President that we were here by adjournment for the purpose of electing a woman physician to have charge of the women insane, and we must first try that issue. Then for two hours, the matter was discussed with great warmth, and finally the vote was had, and we "held the field," elected Dr. Garver for three years. It was a great disappointment to Dr. Gerhard, the whining, deceitful inefficient superintendent.

The result of this days labor is awaited with great interest by the medical women of the State. I returned to Norristown by 5:10 P.M. Follen met me. We passed down the other side of the Schuylkill River to Conshohocken, so that I might visit John Wood, and Howard Wood's family on the way home. Found my wife and daughter Mary had gotten home from Atlantic City. The night before they left, Tuesday night, the high tide which swept away almost the whole row of buildings, on the beach for a mile, came up to the very house where they were boarding on Kentucky Avenue.

For two or three days the Sea was lashed into fury and rose higher than was ever known before. Oh! how glad Mrs. Corson & Mary were to be again at home. They realize in its fullness that, "there is no place like home."

Fearful calamities are happening every day. The Earthquake at Ischia, engulfing thousands, and at Java, its tens of thousands.

Suicides, murders, Rail Road collisions, and conflagrations fill up the chapters.

September 1: Saturday.

At midnight I was awakened and slept after that but poorly. At six this morning I turned out of bed to get up, when I was attacked by palpitation. I dressed myself with some difficulty, and then getting my granddaughter Frannie Yocom (15 years of age) up, we went before the family came down, to see poor Mrs. Eliza Freas to give her 2 grains morph. by Hypodermic syringe. After breakfast, (as I feel better when riding in the air than when in bed), I went with Follen to Consho. on his way to the City, got my mail, went to daughter Susan Lukens, wrote a reply to a letter from Dr. Parrish, visited John Wood, and came home. Have had it [palpitation] on me ever since, have it now at 3 ½ P.M. while doing this writing. A patient has come in. 5 P.M. The palpitation has just ceased.

September 2: Sunday.

Up at six. Visited Mrs. Freas before breakfast. Feel pretty well. Beautiful morning.

September 3: Monday.

As I had appointed this day to visit the Alms House officially and had notified the other two members of the Committee, I made my way to Norristown after visiting a patient at Consho., and there picked up Doctor J. O. Knipe and took him with me. We were only an hour and eleven minutes until we were there. We found Mr. Henry Fry there and proceeded at once to examine the hospital for Insane. By the time we were

through with that, we were called to an excellent dinner. Then resumed our work, the hospital for sick, the basement for insane, idiotic and epileptic men, and the men and women to the number of about 191 men and 13 women, in this last place.

We suggested better diet for the people in the sick wards, and for all the women, also that rocking chairs should be furnished for the old and also nursing women in the big home. Also urged on the Directors the removal of Samuel Marshall, male nurse in the sick ward, who, we had the best testimony, has had carnal intercourse with one of the patients in the ward under the care of his wife. Should the Directors refuse to remove him, I shall make their conduct known through the Newspapers.

On Thursday next we shall visit the Jail. H.C.

September 5: Wednesday.

Renan's Institute for our present Theology entitled "The Worth of Life," is worth reading. There are too many Pessimists in the world.

**Editor's note:** The article mentioned is not in the diary.

Have had many letters to answer since my return from Harrisburg. The weather is very cool now. Heavy frost yesterday morning.

I ought to have said, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> page back, that Dr. Rebecca S. Hunt, of the Norristown Hospital, had made application to the Board of Trustees at Harrisburg for a place made vacant by the expiration of the term of Dr. Cleaves, and had procured credentials of fitness, from Dr. Gross and other eminent men in Philad. and had sent a printed copy of them to every one of the Trustees, but as the Trustees were generally in favor of Dr. Garver who had been an assistant for three years, I did not offer her name, and her friends are well satisfied that she can stay with Dr. Bennett. Dr. Hunt did not know that Dr. Garver was an applicant for the place, and would not have applied if she had known it.

September 16: Sunday.

Since last writing, have visited the Jail, officially, Mr. Fry and Dr. Knipe both with me. Took notes so as to make my report, which must be sent to "Board of Public Charities" before Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. We found prisoners all speak well of their treatment. Several small boys, six, I think [are] in the prison. Not one woman.

Every hour I could spare from other duties in the day time, during the past ten days, I have been arranging & labeling my minerals. I think of giving them to Swarthmore College. I am very busy and very well.

Went to Thomas Foulke, at New Hope, last Saturday (yesterday) week. He was very ill, had not lain in bed for about 10 days; feet & legs greatly swelled. I had him put into bed, and prescribed Calomel, Squill<sup>xxi</sup> & Dig[italis], one gr. each 3 times a day. His heart was excessively turbulent. He has been in bed ever since, to his great relief.

September 23: Sunday.

Since last writing I have been very busy. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, I was in Philad. on business; on the 18<sup>th</sup> "posed" for my "picture," that is, I sat while Thos. Hovenden, who



is married to my niece Helen Corson, and who is an eminent Artist, painted a portrait of me.

On the 19<sup>th</sup>, I attended the meeting of the American Gynecological Society in Philad., but did not stay to the dinner given by the Obstetrical Society of Philad., to the members of the Gynecological Soc., though I had a ticket to it. I did not wish to be out so late at night. It took place in the evening at St. George's Hall, S. W. corner, 13<sup>th</sup> and Arch Sts.

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>, yesterday, I paid another visit to our Alms House, alone and took careful notes of every department, so that I can make out a truthful report to the Board of Public Charities before Oct. first.

Also visited the Jail again on last Thursday & took notes.

Besides all these things, I did a good deal of practice and labeled anew and washed my minerals, in all leisure minutes.

Thomas J. C. Foulke dead. My nephew Thomas Foulke, son of Dr. Charles Foulke, deceased, died yesterday week, and was buried on Tuesday of last week, at the Presbyterian Church, two miles down the river from New Hope. Several of our children were at Tom's funeral. Wife & self did not go.

September 30: Sunday.

On last Thursday night (27<sup>th</sup>) at seven o'clock, I was attacked by palpitation. At 11 P.[M.] it went off till 3 P.M. on 28<sup>th</sup>, when [it] went off at 4, then came at 5, then at 6 went off.

Yesterday (Saturday) at 2 P.M. I went to Philad. with wife, she to pay a visit to daughter Frannie, and I to go to the house of Dean Bodey, at 1400, 21 St. North, to a reception which she gave to Mrs. Amandibai Joshee, of Serampore, Hindostan [Hindustan]. I had received a very special invitation from Dr. Bodey, Dean of the Woman's Medical College of Philad. and therefore was desirous to meet Mrs. Joshee, who is of the high class Brahman's. She has come with a companion to attend the courses of instruction in the medical college, and to graduate and then go back to Hindostan [sic], to practice.

Male physicians are not allowed, at least save under great restrictions, to attend the Indian women, and some of our American medical women have within a few years gone there and are doing admirably. Dr. Anna Kugler of this County went less than a month ago and now, if the women of India should follow Mrs. Joshee in numbers & make themselves acquainted with medicine, they would confer untold blessings on their sisters in that vast region.

At 4:20 P.M., I was introduced to Mrs. Joshee by Dr. Bodey. I was surprised to see a short, very short, rather squatty person, dressed somewhat like the Chinese are described as dressing. I never have seen a Chinese woman, a dark mulatto, but with the characteristic bronze of the Eastern people, coal black hair, small, regular teeth, an amiable countenance, when receiving, a gentle smile, but an instant relapse into the stolid expression of one not accustomed to be surprised by anything. The visitors followed each other so quietly that we could only shake her plump hand, express our pleasure of meeting her and retire. She speaks seven languages. I came home in the 6:05 P.M.

Last Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, Annie Bacon, daughter of Lydia Foulke, my wife's sister who died several years ago, was married to Robert Neff at the church of [empty space] in Philad. We were all invited. Wife and self did not go. Follen, Mary, Susan, Bertha, Tacie and Frannie went. Robert Corson & his wife Rebecca managed the affair. They left Philad. the same day for a trip to Niagara Falls.

October 7: Sunday.

Marriage of Martha Corson, daughter (twin) of Elias H. Corson (deceased) to Warren Poley (druggist) of Germantown. They were married at her Mother's home in Whitemarsh Tp., ½ mile from Plymouth Meeting. Only her brothers & sisters & her sister-in-law and her Mother and her father's sister Martha Styer, on her side, and his sisters & brother-in law, &c., on his side [were] present. Married by "Friends Ceremony" [September 25<sup>th</sup>]. Left home that evening for a trip to Niagara Falls, arrived at home on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October Sunday.

I was attacked by palpitation while at dinner today. It seemed different from the usual attacks. Generally I feel a sharp jerk in the chest, under the breast-bone, and sometimes followed at once by dizziness, but more generally after a slight jerk, I feel a fullness and my heart is pounding away at the rate of 160 in a minute. Today there was no jerk, but a feeling like that caused by the stoppage of the heart, when it loses a beat, but the feeling cont'd. and made me feel that it was not coming again. But after a time, say after it might have beat half a dozen times, I found it at the pulse at its old trick of 160 per minute.

After dinner, I laid myself on the lounge for half an hour, but felt so badly that I got up and went to the School House and began to re-write the names of some of my minerals. Had not been at it more than an hour when I felt so wretched that I came back to the lounge. After half an hour there, Mrs. Cadwalader Evans & Mr. & Mrs. McGarris came to see me, and I had to spend an hour with Mrs. Evans, in relation to Poor House matters about which she wishes to consult me. After they had gone & I had had supper, Follen took me to see John Righter (Director of the Poor). I wanted to get a room for an old (114 years) colored woman in the Alms House where the white women are. Should I succeed, she will be the first one who has thus been favored. I will have her there, or I will publish the conduct of the Directors in reference to the colored paupers, the pauper colored women at least. There are seven colored women in the basement of the hospital for Insane and 6 children and only 4 beds.

Yesterday I was at the Hospital for Insane at Norristown, visited Dr. Alice Bennett on business. The Trustees had met the day before, and at last came to the conclusion to have one more physician for the male and one more for the female department. I am taking measures to have some of the women doctors who are members of County Medical Societies to write medical papers and read them before the State Medical Society, and for that visited Dr. Bennett. I shall write to nearly all those members.

Last week the Philad. Co. Med. Soc. as it has done on other occasions, blackballed three ladies who had been proposed for membership. An account of their meeting published in the Philad. Times, I will pin here, so that it may remain on record. I have it in my mind to night to criticize the paper.

**Editor's note:** The half column newspaper article Dr. Corson mentioned is titled, NO WOMEN NEED APPLY. It reports that the meeting was attended by 175 members. Up for election to membership were "a dozen men and three women, Emily B. Dubois, of 1409 Thompson street, Frances Emily White, 1715 Master street, and Annie E. Broomall, 1435 Walnut street, all graduates of the Woman's Medical College and in excellent standing in the profession." After heated discussions, all the males were elected unanimously and "the females were black-balled. Seventy votes were cast in their favor, but a two-thirds majority is required."

October 11: Thursday.

Palp[itation] began at 11 P.M. yesterday, lasted till 11 A.M. today.

I had been in attendance at the Convention of Directors of the Poor gathered from all the Counties of the State in Philad. Tuesday & Wednesday and came home wearied at dark. Then went down to the Hiram Roberts farm to see crazy Mrs. Robert Thompson

I had attended merely as an "Official Visitor" of the Poor House and Jail, but as there was no Director there, I took part in the exercises, answering for Montgomery County.

October 14: Sunday.

Since returning from the Convention, I have felt sorry that I spoke there in relation to the management of the Insane Hospitals throughout the State, as I think I said some things I had better have left unsaid. I have been practicing since pretty steadily, as well as doing a great deal of correspondence.

Today, though Sunday, I have spent some hours in the School House arranging and labeling my minerals, also attended twice to a very grave case of Diphtheria, and to an old lady four miles away.

Follen took Mother and Mary [for] a ride to Wissahickon this afternoon, but it was too warm for enjoyment. Wrote to Dr. Rachel Bodey, Dr. Henry H. Smith, John B. Willard, and my son Joseph. Have not had a leisure minute, and have been very happy in my work.

October 26: Friday

Last Thursday week, 18<sup>th</sup>, after stopping all night at the "Lochiel" in Harrisburg, where I had the best room in the house furnished to me, I went in the Hospital carriage with Dr. Lamberton (Pres't. of Lehigh University), Dr. Gross, Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Eppley, trustees, to the hospital, where we found Dr. Green, with whom I had ridden in the Cars from Reading to Harrisburg the previous evening, Dr. Atlee of Lancaster and Mr. Charles Bailey. Drs. Green & Atlee and myself were a committee to define exactly what "Medical Control" in the "Act," which I had passed in relation to the rights of women doctors in hospitals, means.

We each read our definitions of it, and what rights it gave her. Dr. Green's and mine were alike in every thing but the language. Dr. Green's was read last; I at once rose and said I would freely sign Dr. Green's paper. Dr. Lamberton at once said "all right," we now have two, a majority. This settled the matter against Dr. Atlee, who had a report which made the woman doctor entirely subservient to the male physician. It was

a sore disappointment to Atlee and the Superintendent who are doing all they can to defeat our reform.

We also signed another paper, that we were all of [the] opinion that a physician there should not have more than 100 patients. This justified us then in recommending that another physician be appointed as assistant to Dr. Garver, the female chief.

We passed the annual reports and did a great deal of business, from 9 A.M. till 21 minutes after one P.M. Our train was to leave Harrisburg 2 miles away at 1:45 P.M., so we had but 24 minutes in which to eat our dinner and get to the Cars. Fortunately we dispensed with "Grace," and as we had fried and raw oysters, with no bones to pick, we hurried a few down and then scampered for the carriage, Drs. Green, Lamberton & myself. We reached it and had a pleasant ride to Reading, chuckling over our defeat of the opposition. I got safely home by dark. Matt met me at the depot at Bridgeport, and we were soon at Maple Hill, where all were glad to find that I had not had palpitation while away. Dr. Green & myself exchanged Photos of selves and wives. Rec'd. a letter from him yesterday. H.C

Last Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup>, I had palpitation from noon until 3 P.M. Did not sleep next night until 3 o'clock. A strange excitement morph. produces in me, exhilarating me so that I cannot sleep. But the next night, I made it up, as I always do.

Every leisure hour the last two weeks, I have been labeling anew and cleaning my minerals. Dan washes them for me and I then label them.

I have a great deal of clinical work on my hands, and now I cannot write more than an hour or so without weariness. I am running out the genealogies of the Corson, Foulke, Dickinson, Dungan and Wright families, for 200 years each, and keeping up my medical reading, and a heavy correspondence every day, besides practicing some. My income from monies at interest and from rents, seem to be quite sufficient to keep us living well.

October 31: Wednesday.

Had consultation with Dr. McKinzey [Wm. McKenzie] at George Davis's. Practiced till noon. Sister Hannah Bacon (wife of Frank Bacon) & her daughter Lillie came here today. Lillie is now nearly 20 years of age, a modest looking child, apparently about 17, though well-grown and quite interesting with her black hair and eyebrows, and eyelashes.

While sitting by the bed-side of my friend and sick patient, Wm. Staley, on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> at 11 o'clock, I was struck by palpitation, a pretty severe attack, sudden & sharp. I got home about noon. I never let any one know that I am affected when attacked in my absence from home, lay down occasionally. Walked about, went to the School House and busied myself about my minerals until 4 P.M. Then at 4 P.M., I took ½ grain Sulph. Morph. This made me some easier. I staid up till 10 P.M., then went to bed. But as is invariably the case with me after taking morpheum, did not sleep one wink till after it went off at 4 A.M. on Tuesday, 17 hours from the time of attack. So, though I had had this for 17 hours and no sleep, I rose at 6 A.M. and went with Follen to Conshohocken. at 7 ½ on Tuesday, practiced till noon, then after dinner, took Mr. Jones of Baltimore, a friend of Thos. Hovenden, with me to Mrs. Stouts, and up to the Fort Washington. It was about as much as I could do, without too great exertion for my heart,

to walk from the road to the fort, up the steep hill. Mr. Jones was greatly pleased with the ride, and the view of the old Fort, a place of so great historic interest.

Wife, Mary & Follen and Sister Hannah Bacon and her daughter Lillie are all in the parlor and seem to have a pleasant time this evening, while I have been here in the dining room, writing & reading. I preferred to be here because I am just dull enough of hearing not to comprehend conversation carried on by several.

November 3: Saturday.

There is a fearful scandal afloat in Philad. and is now getting into the "papers," about my friend Professor Pepper, Provost of the University of Pa. and Professor of Practice of Medicine in the University. There "is a woman in the case." I am sorry for it whether true or false.

November 10: Saturday.

My last attack of palpitation was last Monday week. Today at 3 P.M., while in the carriage returning from seeing Mrs. Stout, at "Highland Farm," next the "Sheaff" residence, below the Broad Axe Hotel, I was attacked. I still have it. Took just before supper, 35 drops Tinct. Digitalis, and half an hour later  $\frac{1}{2}$  grain Sulph. Morph. Am feeling the morph. now and am somewhat more comfortable. I have done considerable practice since last attack, and have written and rec'd. many letters, and have labeled and arranged my minerals. The State election is over and the Republicans have had a victory.

Two more physicians, one male the other female, have been appointed for the Eastern Hospital. So now there are three in Norristown and two in Harrisburg. What a change has been brought since my resolution, asking for a Committee from the State Society, to "Report on the propriety of having a female physician for the female Insane in State Hospitals." How coldly it was rec'd. How zealously opposed! And yet see the grand result!

Two days since I rec'd. from Emeritus Professor of Surgery, Henry H. Smith, the annexed letter, asking me for my opinion of the success of women physicians in those hospitals. He is desirous to have a woman assist. in the "Training School for Imbeciles" at Media, Pa. and wishes to show my letter to the trustees if I can make [a] favorable reply.

Rec'd. a letter today from the Sec'y. of the Association of Directors of the Poor of the State of Pa., in reply and asking for a copy of my report made to the State Medical Society, in relation to the propriety of having female physicians for the female Insane.

**Editor's note:** This letter as well as that from Professor Smith and a letter from Dr. Leffmann of the Philadelphia Polyclinic and College for Graduates in Medicine are pasted in the diary.

My wife and Mary and Follen all seem in good health now for which I am very thankful. Joseph, and all our married girls are well also, and all their families.

I have such crowds of medical journals, & Journals on Insanity, and other papers, coming every week, every day I may say, that I can no longer read them all.

Letter rec'd. from Dr. Leffman [sic], with three copies of his Essay against the stimulators in "practice," read before Philad. Co. Med. Soc. Copy of a paper from Dr. Fundenburg of Pittsburgh on Treatment of Hemorrhoids.

November 18: Sunday..

Was very well all last week, and did some considerable practice, wrote many letters and received a good many. Attended the County Medical Society meeting and met many friends there.

Jay & Susan have spent the evening here [and] have just gone home.

November 22: Thursday.

Since Sunday, last writing, I have been very well. On Tuesday, myself & wife went to Radnor Station, P.R.R. in our carriage; there took the 12:24 train to see Abbie Hall, an Orthodox Friend and Minister, who has been utterly paralyzed, for six months, on one side. She was one of our early, young friends. How changed we all seemed to me while I stood by her bed-side. The lovely young girl whom I knew so well fifty years ago, now an old, paralyzed woman of seventy years. Her two sisters also there, one 73, the other 75. My wife too just turned of 70 and somewhat gray, but yet, looking fresh and even pretty with her graceful puffs of gray hair. And myself older than any of them, now in my 80<sup>th</sup> year, with hair and beard, which was once as black as the Raven's wing, now almost as white as the driven snow. What a contrast to the group who, half a century ago, were young, buoyant, full of life and happiness.

Her husband had written to me that though she had a good doctor, yet she was very anxious to see me as a physician and wife as her early friend. Their house, a lovely one, was close to the Station. We staid just two hours and then returned.

It was pleasant to meet those friends, even though they were so changed and the one so suffering. They were all daughters of Hannah Williams, who for many years kept a boarding school at Plymouth Meeting.

Rec'd. pleasant letter from Dr. Byrd of Baltimore in answer to one from me, telling him of Dr. Charles Dollys [Dolley's] coming to John's Hopkins University to study Biology, in which he says he will be glad to have him come to his house. So I have just written & sent to Charles a letter of introduction to him.

Letter from Charles Heber Clarke ("Max Adler"),<sup>xxii</sup> making inquiry of the influence of the moon on insane people. I have just written a reply.

I was at Norristown to attend the meeting of the Historical Society of our County this afternoon, and it was while coming home that I was attacked by the palpitation.

Mary and her mother are in the City tonight. Follen and the domestics are in bed. It is almost ten o'clock and I have been writing letters and in this journal all the evening, partly because I wish to note these things and partly because I feel better if my mind is employed. During all these past five hours, my heart has been thumping away at the rate of 160 times in a minute.

I shall now go to bed but not to sleep. I shall be awake the whole night, and my mind will be very active; it will wander back in the years, and bring before me my lost children, Edward and Caroline, so dear to our hearts, then my brothers and sisters now all gone but William, then my parents and their ancestors; my wife's parents too, and her brothers and sisters, and then friends here and there and every where. So will the night

be spent, and so often has the palpitation passed away in from 10 to 15 hours, that it is likely it will leave me before morning, and I shall be well as ever again in the morning. I am wonderfully wakeful now, feel as I could write all night.

Frank Woodbury, Editor of Philad. Medical Times, sent me "specimen copy" of the Times. I wrote to him that if he would send it to me, I would write an occasional article for pay. His letter says he will be happy to send it on those terms. See it. Now to bed. Hiram Corson.

November 24: Saturday.

Went with Dr. McKinsy [sic] to see Joseph Conard, an old friend of mine. He was dead before I reached there. Also was in consultation with Dr. Mc. on Wednesday in another case.

November 25: Sunday.

Death & Funeral of Joseph W. Conard of West Conshohocken. He died last Thursday night and his funeral took place today. Follen and myself went to the house at the hour named, 10 A.M. There were quite a good number of respectable men and women there. Old Wm. Hallowell, 88 years of age (I think) preached a whole half hour at the house.

There was meeting held at Plymouth when the funeral arrived there. Robert Evans of Philad. and Joel Lair of Plymouth preached.

Fifty-one years ago, I was his first Grooms-man, and we had a lively time at the house of David Meredith, father of Hannah, whom Joseph married. Today, not a person of all who were there on that festive occasion, but Hannah and myself, only one other is now living. Joseph was almost 77 years old, and I am past 79. Two weeks since I met him and had a pleasant time.

November 27: Tuesday.

At 5 P.M., while on my way from Norristown, was struck with palpitation. Came home and in an hour, took 40 drops Tinct. Digitalis and 20 grains Bromide, in 2 hours more, 12 drops and 20 grains. Had but just taken the last dose when it suddenly stopped and beat in its usual way, but at 80 per minute. In half an hour it was at 70. I was then well and slept well after about 2 hours of wakefulness, till morning. If I can stop it this way, I shall prefer it to taking morph., for the morph affects me all next day, but not unpleasantly.

November 29: Thursday.

Thanksgiving Day. The letter pinned here is from Professor Hiram Corson, in reply to one from me asking him to use his influence with the faculty of John's Hopkins University in favor of a Fellowship for Dr. Charles S. Dolley, my nephew, and his cousin.

December 3: Monday.

Since last writing, I have been very well. Have been practicing, and attending to other duties. Today was in Norristown and met my nephew Thomas Adamson, who has with his wife just returned from Panama, where he has been most reluctantly residing as

Consul. It is a most vile place for a man to reside in Summer, and but little better in Winter. It is, he says, the dampest place in the world and being excessively hot and other adverse conditions being all the time present, Yellow Fever prevails to a great degree. He is here to try to get the President to restore him to Rio Janeiro [sic] from whence he was taken to make place for a political favorite.

He is a fine looking man, with a beard as white as I have ever seen. He is too a man of unwavering uprightness, and a most valuable officer.

Rec'd. a letter from our son Joseph today. He says that on Thursday last, Thanksgiving Day, at 1:30 P.M., a son was born to them. This gives us real satisfaction as it is the only grandson named Corson. Each of the girls has a son, Bertha two sons, but they are not of our name.

Last Saturday evening, Dr. John K. Reid's son Charles, a young man, who is running a course very much against his father's wish, was shot in the head by a young woman, she stepped from the inside of the Car, when nearing Girard Av., on to the rear platform and shot twice at him. He is now lying at his father's house in Conshohocken. Last night she took Paris Green<sup>xxiii</sup> at her father's house. Dr. Highley was called to see her. She will recover.

December 4: Tuesday.

Today attended Semi-Centennial Commemoration of the American Anti Slavery Society, which this day 50 years ago met and organized, or rather was organized by 59 members, all of whom are now dead but three. Only one of the three was there today.

There was a pretty full house in the Horticultural Hall, Broad St., Philad. Wm. and myself had tickets for the platform. Wm. did not get there until the organization, Robert R. Corson, who was one of the Secretaries and a very active person in getting up the meeting, Thomas Adamson, my nephew, Consul at Panama and Elijah F. Pennypacker who is married to Hannah Adamson, sister to Thomas, were on the platform. Daughter Frannie was in the meeting, also many more whom I know. I did not remain to the evening meeting, in which reminiscences of the Underground Rail Road were to occupy the meeting.

I pin here a copy of the "Declaration of Sentiment"<sup>xxiv</sup> which these 59 people sent forth to the people of the United States and to uphold which they labored for nearly thirty years, till the beginning of the great Rebellion which began by the action of the Slaveholders in 1861, and by which Lincoln our then President, felt himself justified in emancipating all the slaves of the U. States.

People born in the last quarter of the century know nothing of the scorn, and abuse, which were heaped on abolitionists everywhere from 1833 till the war began. For years, there were only Alan, George and myself and Jonathan Adamson among the voters in Whitemarsh, who were outspoken abolitionists.

9 ½ P.M. I am alone in the house all this evening. Follen, Mary and their mother, who are all fond of music, have gone to a great concert in the Episcopal Church of Conshohocken. Our woman and her daughter are away on a visit to Philad. Matt, the farmer, is at his home. Dan, our firemaker and general waiting and serving man, is waiting in the office for the folks to come home, and then to take care of the horse.

I have done a deal of reading and writing and will now stop and wait for the folks to come home.



December 23: Sunday.

Since last writing, I have written two pretty long articles on Blood-letting in the aged, and Blood-letting in the very young, for the Medical & Surgical Reporter, and one paper, quite lengthy, On Bright's Disease, for "The Medical Times." Am now writing "A General Introductory" to a course of 16 lectures to be given by the members of the Montgomery County Medical Society, on Nursing.

Last week I rec'd. a letter from Dr. W. S. W. Ruschenberger of the Navy (retired), complimenting me highly for my Address last year, 1882, before the Alumni Association of the University of Penna. He spoke of reading it with gratification & admiration, and that it was already exerting an influence favorable to advancement in the study of Mental disease, & yesterday I rec'd. from the Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania Hospital a letter stating that one of the Board had rec'd. and read my address, and they now desired to have one for each member of the board, 13 in all. I had previously, only a day before, written to my friend Jacob P. Jones, one of the board, suggesting the propriety, since Dr. Kirkbride has died, of reorganizing with a female physician as chief of female department.

Also rec'd. another letter yesterday from the President of Philad. Co. Med. Soc., inviting me to a discussion on 9<sup>th</sup> of January, 1884 at the Hall of the College of Physicians, "on the Contagiousness of tubercular Consumption." If it would not suit me to be present, then to write my views and send them to be read, and published with the "Transactions."

9 P.M. Have written two long letters, one to Dr. Lamberton, and one to Prof. Traill Green, M.D., two of our Trustees at Harrisburgh Hospital

It is snowing rapidly. There were already two inches on the ground.

December 28: Friday.

Last Wednesday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>, 1883, we had a Golden Wedding, as it is called, at the house of Jawood [sic] & Susan Lukens, our son-in-law, and daughter. (it being just 50 years since we were married in Philadelphia at the home of Patty and Becky Rutter, in 13<sup>th</sup> St., below Chestnut, I think). They were cousins to my wife's father.

We had a pleasant company. My brother Wm. Corson, M.D., all our children & husbands and eleven of our grandchildren, all of them except Joseph & his wife & two children. Also [present were] all my wife's sisters and her brother Jesse, the husbands of the sisters, Robert R. Corson & Frank Bacon, and my niece Helen Corson, now Hovenden, and her husband Thomas Hovenden, the artist who is painting the great picture of John Brown coming from the jail with a rope around his neck & with pinioned arms, going to execution.

We went at 3 P.M. and came away after 9 P.M.; all left then.

At 3 A.M. on the 28<sup>th</sup> [was] awakened by palpitation. It lasted for 6 hours, have not had it before for 4 weeks & 2 days.

December 30: Sunday.

For the past week in addition to other duties, I have been interested in trying to influence the Managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital to appoint a woman physician to have entire charge of the department for insane women.

Dr. Kirkbride, who [had] charge for many years is deceased, and they asked me to send copies of my address to the Alumni Association, in which I treated of Insanity, and women physicians.

**Editor's note:** Pasted into the diary are a personal invitation serving as an admission ticket to the lecture given by Matthew Arnold on Literature and Science, sent to Dr. Corson by Swarthmore College President Edw. H. Magill; an invitation from Dr. W. M. Welsh, President of the Philadelphia County Medical Society, to attend and share his views on tuberculosis at their next meeting; a letter from the Secretary of the Antivivisection Society, Garry B. French, inviting Dr. Corson to attend their annual meeting at Association Hall, "addressing a few remarks to the meeting." Also in the diary at this point are two more personal letters, one from son Joseph to son Follen, another from Dr. Traill Green.

## 1884

January 2: Wednesday.

The New Year passed over, at least its first day, very quietly. In the City of Philad., they do not now allow a single gun to be discharged, or fire crackers. It used to be a night of turmoil and accidents and deaths, by guns and by murders.

January 3: Thursday.

January 2<sup>nd</sup> I was attacked by palpitation at 5 P.M., lasted me until 5 A.M. Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Tct.. Digitalis 70 drops had no perceptible effect on me. Then in 6 hours took ½ grain Sulph. Morph., which enabled me to lie comfortably.

This evening I wrote three papers to finish my "General Introductory," to the Course on Nursing. I am exceedingly tired this evening, having had the palpitation all night & sleeping not a wink. So as it is now 9 P.M. and Mary & her mother have gone up stairs, Follen being away, I will close up and go to bed.

January 6: Sunday.

Saturday and Sunday very cold. Fine sleighing. Sent for by Dr. Wm. McKinsy [sic] to see an old man whose disease he could not make out. [The patient] has been very ill since Christmas Day, dribbling some, &c. Now dull in the brain. I diagnosed a distended bladder. Dr. Mc. "knew it was not." The Cath. took off rather less than ½ gallon water and the patient was well.

January 9: Wednesday.

Attended the Medical Society of the County today. Dr. Oscar Leedom read a paper on the Bacilli as a cause of disease. I took occasion to discuss the subject, showed that Dr. Formad on the one hand and Dr. Schmidt on the other had proved by different kinds of observations and by different investigations had proved that Dr. Koch's living Bacilli were only crystals of fatty acids. No other member attempted to discuss the matter. While speaking quite moderately, [I] was suffering from so great a irregularity of the heart's action that I felt for a little while after I took my seat as if I would die, but I said nothing, and after half an hour, I was restored to usual health.

Rec'd. letter from John Williams with whom I was to go to Swarthmore to hear Matthew Arnold. I did not go.

Rec'd. letter from Phebe Roberts in relation to the death of Abbie Hall, her sister, whom I was over to see during her illness.

January 10: Thursday.

Attended some patients today. Read some scientific articles.

January 14: Monday.

I opened the course of 16 lectures to be given on Nursing at Norristown today to a select audience of ladies and gentlemen, in Quillman's Hall,<sup>xxv</sup> "on the origin, and doings, of the Montgomery Co. Med. Soc. during 37 years." One of its members originated the cooling treatment of measles, the ice treatment of S. Fever and Diphtheria, and originated and carried on the contest with the State Medical Society, and the Philad. Co. Medical Society, for the recognition of women physicians, also originated the efforts to procure a law to authorize Trustees of hospitals to employ women doctors to manage insane women.

January 17: Thursday.

Yesterday after dinner went to Norristown to the first of the lectures on Nursing, by Dr. Wiley. After that at 4:42 P.M., took the Cars at Bridgeport for Harrisburgh. At Reading joined Dr. Traill Green, my friend and also a trustee. As usual, we had a pleasant talk to Harrisburgh. Then he went down to the Hospital, and I went to the hotel "Lochiel." There at 9, while at supper, Dr. Orth came in to see me, by appointment made by me, by letter. After supper retired at 10 o'clock. The room on first sleeping floor had been prepared for me, with a good open grate fire, and I awoke this morning greatly refreshed.

Just at 9 o'clock this morning, Dr. Lamberton, Mr. Henry Gilbert, and Dan'l. Eppley, all trustees, called for me, in a large sleigh, and we all went to the Hospital. I went through the female wards alone, with Dr. Jane Garver. Every thing is in good order. Then I examined the records. There was but little for the Board to do, and before 12 noon, we adjourned. After dinner, Dr. Lamberton, Dr. Traill Green, and self took the Cars to Reading. There I parted from them and came to Norristown at 5:20, where I met Matt awaiting me, and in a few minutes Follen, my son, came up from Philad., and in our largest sleigh, we made our way home rapidly, where I found Mary & her mother well and glad to see me.

Dr. Lamberton, Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Eppley and Dr. Traill Green, all greatly pleased with my "Address to the Alumni Association." My term of office (the 3<sup>rd</sup> term) will expire Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, as will one or two others. I would gladly retire but Mr. Gilbert and Dr. Lamberton said to me this morning, that they would not allow it. They think that we cannot afford to lose any one from our side, and that they will see to my re-appointment. I will serve for a time, if they think I am positively needed. I was greatly complimented by them on account of my address.

January 19: Saturday.

Have practiced yesterday & today. Went to Norristown on business in a snow

storm this P.M. Follen took Mary to an opera this evening. I have spent the evening writing and mother in sewing.

Rec'd. a letter from Miss Alden, who is Carrie Corson's teacher in "Studies at Home," a Society entitled, "Society to Encourage Studies at Home," gotten up in Boston, attracted my attention, and I paid the tuition fee [of] \$3.00, and deposited \$1.00 for loan of books for Carrie, whom I entered as a pupil.

January 22: Tuesday.

Coming from Norristown yesterday, I was somewhat under the effect of morph., injected in my back by Ellwood, on acc't. of pain under right shoulder. At nine o'clock P.M., while writing, was taken with palp[itation]. It went off at 11 ½ P.M., then came on while lying in bed at 1 ½ this morning. It lasted me till breakfast time 7 ½ A.M. I did not go out till ten A.M. Then visited two families, and in the afternoon, went about four miles & back again visiting three families. While at the last place, had a palp. again for a few minutes. Was to have attended a conference in Dr. Atkinson's office, Broad & Pine St. with Drs. Parrish, Green, Lamberton, and Atkinson, but was not able to go. Also was expected at a conference in Norristown at [the] same hour this P.M.

January 25: Friday.

Today at 9 A.M., I was attacked by palpitation while attending to a patient at Conshohocken. After coming home, I took at 12 noon, 45 drops Tct. Digitalis, at 2 P.M. 15 drops, at 4 P.M. 15 drops, at 6 P.M. ¼ gr. Sulph. Morph.. In half an hour after, it went off. During the time it held me, I wrote several letters and put up medicine.

I have sent a long article to the "Philad. Medical Times," on Bright's Disease, narrating 4 cases which occurred in our family.

Weather very cold.

Wrote to Mr. Geo. L. Harrison, and Editor of Medical Times, yesterday; to Frank Dickinson and Dr. Jos. Parrish and Dr. Charles Herman Thomas today. Frannie Day spent yesterday with us.

January 27: Sunday.

Splendid sleighing now for more than a month. Had to visit 3 families this morning. After dinner, [was] sent for to Mrs. Hellings, Barren Hill. Follen took me in the sleigh, and then we rode a few miles in the "Park," then crossed to Chestnut Hill and made a short visit to my old friend Dr. Jacoby.

Have written letters this evening to Mrs. Martha Allen in reply to a long one about the death of her father, Joseph Conard; also one to James Dixon, of Easton, Talbot Co. Md., in relation to information from the records of "Friends Meeting" there, of my Ancestor Wm. Dickinson. I hope there is a minute in that Meeting of his leaving Talbot Co. about the year 1680.

January 28: Monday.

Letters from Geo. L. Harrison of Philad., who has wrought so faithfully to improve the condition of the Insane in Pa., and who has just published copies of all laws relating to Insane by all the countries of the world, and all the States of the Union. He says he will send me a copy. It has 500 pages.

Letters also from Marianna Gibbons, Editor of "The Journal," since her father's death, a few weeks since.

January 29: Tuesday.

Practiced a good deal. Snow all day. Went to funeral of my old patient, Mrs. Charles Stout, a fine, old woman.

Sent letter to Hannah Bacon a few days since and rec'd. one from her today.

Wrote to Robert R. Corson & Dr. Woodward.

January 31: Thursday.

Yesterday practiced, and in the afternoon went to Norristown to hear the 4<sup>th</sup> Lecture on Nursing by Dr. Chase.

Today, practiced & went to Norristown on Business. Rec'd. letter from Geo. S. Harrison, & some circulars also from Dr. Hunt. Wrote to Governor Pattison,<sup>xxvi</sup> and to Mr. Gilbert, both of Harrisburgh, also to Dr. Wm. Hunt of Philad. Am reading "The Dawn of History," every evening. It is the book sent to Carrie Cresson by her teacher, of the "Study at Home Society." It will be pretty hard reading for Carrie.

February 1: Friday.

Nothing unusual today. Practiced some. Brought Susan to spend the day with her mother. Wrote to Joseph and Dr. Lamberton. Follen & Mary went by invitation to George Corson's (E. H. Corson's son) to a small party of friends.

February 2: Saturday.

Rec'd. from Mr. George L. Harrison, Ex-President of the "Board of Public Charities," a large work, most substantially bound, entitled "Legislation on Insanity," containing all laws in all parts of the world, in relation to management and treatment of the Insane. A most valuable work. It will be sent to Legislatures everywhere, prior to the changes in laws relating to management. I had written to Mr. Harrison that I intended to ask the Legislature of our State to abolish the law which compels Boards of Trustees of Hospitals for Insane, to appoint a Superintendent for 10 years and gives him the management of a large farm, and makes him the provider for all the needs of hundreds of patients, besides giving him medical charge of the patients.

February 7: Thursday.

Attended my niece Mary Livezey in her confinement on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, and on Thursday Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> had palp. from 7 A.M. till 7 P.M. I have been practicing a good [deal] since Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> and writing and reading much, and while I sleep pretty well, do not sleep many hours out of the 24.

February 12: Tuesday.

I have been over busy perhaps for some days, and that may be the cause of my palpitation today. I kept up and rode a good deal quietly while it was on me. I feel better in the air. During last attack, I took 70 drops Tinct. Digitalis and 60 grains Bromide Potassium during the first four hours. As they did no good, I only took half a grain Morph. today.

February 13: Wednesday.

Today my term of Trusteeship in Lunatic Hospital at Harrisburgh expires. I have now served two terms of three years, and a half term. First appointed for part of a term, a vacancy caused by resignation of a former trustee, by Gov. Hartranft, then a whole term of three years by appointment of Governor Hartranft, then another three years by Governor Henry M. Hoyt, which expires today. As I am now in my 80<sup>th</sup> year, and as we have both our women physicians securely fixed there, I feel that I would like to be rid of further service there. Drs. Lamberton & Traill Green are very desirous for me to remain.

The Governor appointed on the very day that my 3<sup>rd</sup> term expired (Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>) four new trustees<sup>xxviii</sup>, one in place of Mr. Pomeroy, one instead of Daniel Eppley, one in place of Col. Jennings, and one in my place. All of them Democrats, while we were all republicans.

So I am relieved from further service in that place, but I shall try, if opportunity be afforded me, to change the law which compels the trustees of that hospital and all our other State Hospitals for Insane people to appoint a Superintendent for 10 years and gives him unlimited power, and makes the trustees virtually of no account.

February 25: Monday.

Have not read or written so much since my last palpitation on the 12<sup>th</sup> and am better for it. I sleep better. There is no doubt that the excitement of study, and especially of writing for Medical Journals, excites me unduly, especially if done late in the evening. Have read a pamphlet, sent to me by Dr. Arthur V. Meigs today, and wrote him my opinion of it. Also wrote a long letter to Joseph just now.

Rec'd. a very flattering notice from Mr. Pomeroy, of my services to the State in behalf of the Insane, while a Trustee at Harrisburgh, in the Chambersburgh Repository, published by Mr. Pomeroy himself.

March 2: Sunday.

Evening. Yesterday rec'd. a paper, from Mr. Gilbert, one of our Board of Trustees from Harrisburgh, with a spirited article against the action of the Governor, for turning out 4 Republicans and putting in their places 4 Democrats, and especially for dispensing with my services. It spoke in the highest terms of my usefulness in that position, and he lost it.

Mr. Pomeroy's article was yesterday published in full in the Norristown Herald & Free Press.

Yesterday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, Geo. Highley, M.D., my brother Charles Corson's grandson, became a partner in the practice of medicine, with Dr. David R. Beaver of Conshohocken. He came here this evening, fearfully disheartened. He says he spent a very unhappy night, feeling as if [he] had done a foolish thing. But we all, mother, Mary, Follen and myself cheered him greatly, by encouraging him and speaking approvingly of it, and picturing the great advantages likely to arise to him by his getting acquainted with Dr. Beaver's families. After taking tea with us, he left in pretty good spirits.

March 5: Wednesday.

This morning, at half past 12 midnight, I was attacked by palpitation in bed. It

lasted 2 hours. Have not had an attack for just 3 weeks and one day.

March 7: Friday.

Last evening wife & self [went] to tea with Thomas Hovenden and Helen, my niece. Thomas is hoping to have his great painting of John Brown, coming out of jail to be hung, finished by May 1<sup>st</sup>. He has been at it for nearly two years. The price to be paid him is \$5000.

On Wednesday, attended our Medical meeting, on Thursday the Lecture on Nursing. We have one of these every week, delivered by a member of the Society. So there will be 16, one by each of 16 members.

March 9: Sunday.

Letters today from Dr. Willard, Dr. Evans, Mrs. Corson, Hiram's wife, Isabella Staley, and "Cousin Sarah Williams."

This has been a day of rain, hail, snow, thunder & lightening. All day it was storming. At 2 P.M. there was a heavy clap of thunder, in 15 or 20 minutes another, then rain, after that ever since, snow. I did not feel well this morning, headache, rather chilly, pain in left side. After breakfast got better, read an hour or two, then took a nap on the sofa. After dinner had pains about me, took ½ of a grain Sulp. Morph. It relieved me greatly, so that at supper, I was quite well, except a frequently intermitting pulse. At 7 P.M. concluded I would take 20 drops Tinct. Digitalis. Was dropping it when palpitation struck me. The heart is now beating away at the rate of 160 per minute. It caused so great fullness in my chest that I have just taken ½ gr. Sulph. Morph. to relieve me. I never take it save at these times. It gives me much comfort but makes me wakeful. I shall sleep none tonight.

Have written letters today, poorly as I have felt, to Dr. Moore of Minnesota, to Mrs. Caroline Whitall Laurence, and to son, Joseph Corson, all in reply. Have also read Whittier's Pennsylvania Pilgrims and considerable of Rhetoric; also "The Index," a free religious paper.

March 18: Tuesday.

Last Thursday I went to Philad. to see Isabella Staley, who was sick. Left Spring Mill at 8:45 A.M., visited Miss Staley at 1503 N. 25<sup>th</sup> St., also Mrs. Dickson at 1829 Park Avenue. This latter person had requested a visit from me, because she is descended from the same John Wright and Mary Morgan his wife, from whom my mother came. I visited her, and talked over matters and again took the Cars at Colombia [sic] Avenue so as to reach Sp. Mill at 11:45 A.M. Then visited a very sick person and got home 20 minutes after noon. Since then I have done quite a good deal of practice.

A few minutes ago, I sat down, after reading a paper, to write to Robert R. Corson, and had written but a single word, when palpitation struck me. I had intended to spend two hours more writing out the history of the Wright Family for Mrs. Dickson, but must now defer it and go to bed to lie there all night wide awake, as always in the case when palpitation is on me.

March 19: Wednesday.

We have had a great rain yesterday. Practiced but little. Did not feel bright,

having lost sleep last night, &c.

March 22: Saturday.

Yesterday I went with Follen to Consho. at 7 ½. At 8, while there, was called to attend the wife of John Henry Stemple. As she did not yet seem very poorly, I rode rapidly to Samson's below Spring Mill to see a very sick child; returned to Conshohocken and at 10 ½ A.M., Mrs. Stemple was confined, had a son. At eleven I was at home, got dinner and at 12 ½ was at Spring Mill with ("mother") wife to go with her to Philad., called a few minutes at daughter Frannie's, where wife will stay a few days. Then I went to Follen's office, then to see Edward M. Davis at No. 205 Walnut Place; then out to Bertha's at 2040 Vine St.; then up to 1503 N. 25<sup>th</sup> St. to see Isabella Staley, who is very sick. Then to see Dr. Matthers, in Park Avenue, above Columbia Avenue; then to 1829 Park Avenue, to see Mrs. Dixon, Dickson, a newly discovered relation. Read to her for nearly half an hour my record of the Wright family. Then went to call on Judge William Yerkes, 1<sup>st</sup> door above Columbia Avenue in Park Avenue; then went to Station of Norristown R.R. at Colombia [sic] Av.; took the 5:35 Express and was at Consho. at ¼ after 6 P.[M.], visited Mrs. Stemple, and then with Follen reached home at 6 ½ P.M.

The above was a heavy days work.

Went to bed at 9 P.[M.]. Slept well, awoke at 5 ¼ A.M., and desiring to turn on my side, jerked myself around and this jerk brought on an attack of palpitation. I got up at six, dressed with some difficulty, took breakfast without Follen and Mary discovering my condition. Started to Consho. with Follen and before I got there, it went off. The heavy work of yesterday was probably the cause of my palpitation this morning. Today I have also been very busy. Have rec'd. and written letters.

March 27: Thursday.

Rose early. Went in the 7 ½ train from Consho. to Philad. About half way to the City and while pleasantly talking [with] Emily Corson, the daughter [of Elias Hicks Corson], a palpitation began. I said nothing about it then, nor when I reached Richard Day's, where I met wife & Frannie & Bertha. After a brief time there, went by Street Car to see Dr. Tyson, Spruce and 5<sup>th</sup> St. He examined my heart, pulse 174 per minute. No organic affection at all. No change in temperature. Then went to see Robert R. Corson, saw his wife and Harriet Foulke. Then went to the room of the Anti-Vivisection Society, 1002 Walnut St. There my palp. went off. I then went around comfortably, took dinner at Richard's; took the Cars for home at 1:35; visited some patients, and have read and written, and am now ready for bed.

March 28: Friday.

Beautiful day. Have been a good deal engaged. Am very well.

April 3: Thursday.

Have been very well and very busy since last writing. Have written and rec'd. many letters. Have had two or three from Joseph, who is troubled somewhat about an uterine tumor which is developing with Ada's Aunt Lucy Hamilton of Wyoming Territory.



Wife is still in the City with Frannie. Her children, Bertha and Charley are here with us, because their hired girl has Scarlet Fever. Smart children and good ones they are.

Thomas Hovenden is finishing his great picture of John Brown's coming out of the Virginia Jail to be hung. Many people are hurrying to see it before it shall be taken away.

April 10: Tuesday.

There is a warm time among politicians now. The Caucus (Democratic) in Congress has been unable to carry a two thirds Free Trade vote in defiance to the Randall part of the party, who are for Tariff. And the day before yesterday the Pa. Convention of Democrats to elect delegates to the National Convention to nominate a candidate for the presidency, were a boisterous Unit for Tariff and declared for Mr. Randall of Philad. for President.

The Republicans too are for Blaine in this State, but there is a most determined opposition to him in other States.

The old leaders have no influence now of consequence, either in Counties or States. The young men are leading. There will be a desperate struggle this year in the presidential contest.

I took Richard H. Day with me to see Prof. Lowe and his family on Sunday last, and we had a rich treat. Never have I seen so grand a display of beautiful minerals. The rooms filled, closely filled with precious stones wrought into the most unique and beautiful forms. The Green House too, filled with rare and beautiful plants. We enjoyed ourselves until the day was gone, then were invited to tea and had a most enjoyable meal.

On Tuesday, by invitation from me, they came to see Mr. Hovenden's John Brown painting. I was sorry they could not see Helen's painting, a little girl, asleep over her lesson, which she was studying by the light of a student lamp. It was sold last week in the Gallery in N. York, before the salon was opened.

April 11: Friday.

Have done a good deal of practice and other matters today. While sitting in the office reading at 5 P.M., I was attacked by palpitation, though I had been very well all day. After supper I was solicited to see an old patient, and after night my man, Matt Lewis took me 2 miles & back. I was very giddy and very suffering on the back of my neck. As I had taken nearly 10 grains of Sulph. Cinchona, I charged my wretched feelings to that. It was the hardest 4 miles I ever made. It is still on me. We had Mrs. Emily Corson & daughter Emily, her son Walter & his wife, his mother-in-law, Mrs. Albertson, here for tea, which I took with them. Then went to see my patient, without any of our folks knowing that I had palpitation on me.

**Editor's note:** In the latter part of this diary (Journal No. 7), Dr. Corson placed letters he had received from the following: Joseph Parrish, Burlington; Marianna Gibbons, Philadelphia; R. A. Lamberton of The Lehigh University, South Bethlehem, Pa.; Dr. Thomas J. Mays, Upper Lehigh, Luzerne County; Dr. Jacob Price, West Chester, Pa.; Miss Ticknor of the Society To Encourage Studies At Home, Boston; Dr. Traill Green;

Dr. E. A. Wood, Pittsburgh; Dr. John Woolverton, Trenton; W. W. Rutchenberger, Philadelphia; Mrs. Anna G. Vaux, Doylestown; Mahlon H. Dickinson, president, Board of Public Charities of Pennsylvania; Dr. I N. Kerlin, Penna Institution for Feeble Minded Children, Elwyn, Delaware County; Thomas Knowles, Yardley, Pa.; Dr. Henry H. Smith, Philadelphia; Miss Lucy W. Fell, Holicong, Pa.; Prof. Alfred Stillé, Philadelphia; Dr. G. L. Bodine, Trenton; Thomas G. Morton, Philadelphia; William J. Buck, Jenkintown, Pa.; Dr. Alice Bennett, Norristown, Pa.; Dr. Mary H. Stinson, Norristown, Pa.; George and Phebe Mulvany, Valley Forge; Miss Emily R. Anderson, Bridgeport, Pa.; Dr. William Goodell, Philadelphia; Joseph Corson (Dr. Corson's son), Jefferson Barracks, MO.; D. W. Gross (druggist), Harrisburg, Pa.; Isaac Roberts, Conshohocken, Pa.; Rudolf Gerlach, Norristown, Pa.; Senator W. Henry Sultore, Harrisburg; Representative Wm. D. Heebner, Lansdale, Pa.; Dr. W. W. Keen, Philadelphia; F. W. Dickinson, Springfield, MO.; Adele Biddle, Secretary of the American Anti-Vivisection Society; Dr. Charles S. Dolley, Rochester, N.Y.; Addison May, West Chester, Pa.; Mrs. M. C. Goodlett, Nashville, Tenn.; Dr. G. B. Murdock, Bellefield, Pa.

April 12: Saturday.

Morning. The attack went off at midnight, and I am now well and just ready to start with Follen to Conshohocken on his way to Philad.

April 16: Wednesday.

Since last writing, I have been quite well. Joseph speaks of a hope to come on here with Ada's Aunt Lucy, who expects to go to the Woman's Hospital in Philad. to undergo an operation for Ovarian Tumor. I hope he will be able to come.

Frannie & Susan expect to go out to see him & his family the first of May.

At ten A.M., I was taken with palp. while prescribing for a patient. I let no one know it, and went on to see my patients; before noon it left me.

I am receiving & writing many letters. Dr. Jacob Price of West Chester, who is preparing the address on the Practice of Medicine to be read before the Medical Society of the State of Pa., in May, in Phila., has written me for my experience in the use of Ice in diseases of puerperal women that he may incorporate it with his other modes of treatment in his address. I pin it here.

"Aunt Harriet Foulke," is here now; very pleasant she is. She and I have pleasant talks about our old New Hope friends. She has without any exceptions the largest, highest forehead I have ever seen on any woman.

April 21: Monday.

Taken with palp. while in bed at 3 in the morning, lasted till 11 ½ A.M. All the time from rising at 6 A.M. till it went off, I was riding and seeing patients., though it was as much as I could do to bear myself so that my patients could not notice how poorly I was. After it left me at noon, I laid down for three hours; then got up and went about the yard. At 5 P.[M.] got it again. Had to see patients afterward, so took ½ gr. morph. just before it left me.

April 22: Tuesday.

Slept none till 4 o'clock this morning, but was quite easy, but I did not expect to sleep, as I never do, after taking Morpheum, until its effects, stimulating effects, are over. All this day I have been very busy visiting patients, going to Bank at Norristown, &c.

Rec'd. a letter from son Joseph this morning. He says Ada's Aunt Lucy Hamilton, arrived at their house on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>, on her way here. She wishes to consult Surgeons in Phila., concerning an Ovarian Disease. Joseph expects either to come with her or to follow her in a week or two. I have secured rooms for her in Woman's Hospital.

May 6: Tuesday.

On the preceding page I have noted that Ada's Aunt had arrived there (at Jefferson Barracks) on her way to Phila. to consult with some surgeons about an abdominal swelling which has troubled her for some months (18).

On the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, I went to Phila. and saw Aunt Lucy at Richard Day's, where she was staying. She had arrived at the Broad St. Station on Tuesday morning at 7 ½ and was met by Richard & Frannie who took her home. At 10 A.M. (May 1<sup>st</sup>), we went to see Dr. Anna Broomall, a woman surgeon in Walnut St. above Broad.

I then had my first look at the "tumor," and it did not strike me as calling for other operation than puncture by a Trocar, and I so suggested to Dr. Broomall. She thought there was some danger in that, and she might as well go through the operation of removal.

I came home after dinner at daughter Frannie's, and Aunt Lucy came up at 5 P.M. with Follen.

Last Sunday I re-examined the tumor and then wrote to Joseph, that "as the responsibility of the care is on me, Aunt Lucy having told me that she would do only what I should advise, I will not have the operation performed, because there is as yet no urgency in the case. I shall write to Dr. Broomall to say whether she is positive that it is an ovarian dropsy, or whether it is a common ascites, that I think the thing should be punctured by a trocar. It would do no harm and would give relief and decide what the case is, but there should be no operation for removal." This I sent off early Monday morning (yesterday morning), the 5<sup>th</sup>.

In the afternoon I had my nephew Dr. Ellwood Maulsby Corson to see Aunt Lucy. He agreed in every thing with me. And on Friday next, possibly on Thursday, we shall aspirate the dropsical swelling. Ellwood has a most admirable instrument for the operation. We hope to relieve her greatly, if not eventually cure her.

Ellwood went this morning with his wife to attend the American Medical Association in Washington City. He will stay with his Uncle George Maulsby, Surgeon in United States Navy, now retired and living at leisure with a good salary in that most beautiful City.

May 12: Monday.

Since writing the above, Dr. E. A. Wood of Pittsburgh, who has operated in 3 cases, with one recovery (one was a cancerous case), also advises against the operation. Dr. Wood staid with one two nights & one day.

The State Medical Society held its meeting during the last three days in Philad. All the sessions I attended. Today at one P.M., I had a consultation in Aunt Lucy's case in the St. George Hotel, corner [of] Broad & Walnut Sts. Present [were] Drs. Albert H. Smith and Ellwood M. Corson. I told them the question to be decided was not whether the tumor should be removed, but only, whether we should tap it, prior to her leaving for home, or let her go home (about 2500 miles) without tapping. It was decided to not tap her.

May 17: Saturday.

Aunt Lucy returned to our house this evening. She is quite smart, very glad to escape an operation at present, even if it should be needed hereafter. I shall now put her under the following treatment: Iodide Potassium 6 grs. 3 times a day with qttts (drops) iv of Foulter's Solution in each dose, omitted (the Foulter) whenever symptoms demand it. I have treated two cases within 10 years, with success, one taking the med., the iodine at least every day, during a whole year.

May 21: Wednesday.

Today Aunt Lucy left here this morning, "Mother" (wife) going with her to Philad. After getting her tickets for Jefferson Barracks, she went to our daughter Bertha Yocom's to stay, and before 9 P.M., her hour for taking the Cars, Bertha and her husband went with her to Broad Street to the Depot of the Penna. Rail Road, and at 9 P.[M.] bade her good-bye, and the train moved out of the depot, taking her away from us, perhaps for ever.

She is a gentle, lovely maiden lady, 64 years of age, a Virginian by birth. During the War she resided in Missouri in the district ravaged by the Danterel Guerillas, a murderous gang, and passed through scenes of fear and danger. She had, living on the old Hamilton Place at "Bull Run," two maiden aunts and an uncle, at the time of the first Bull Run battle. One of the aunts lying in bed, was struck by a piece of shell, which had entered the house and struck her. The sister died at the same time from fright, their house being within the boundaries of the battle field.

I had no palpitation during the State Society meetings, but the following Saturday night, I was taken at 10 o'clock; had it till 5 A.M.. Was then well all day till 6 P.M.. Then was attacked and had it next day till 9 A.M.

May 27: Tuesday.

Have been very well since last writing. Am as well when I am free from palpitation as ever in my life. Have been very busy, seeing to my practice, my men, writing and receiving letters, reading medical journals, &c., &c.

For the past week we have been exercised greatly in reading criticisms of Thomas Hovenden's painting, John Brown.

This great picture which is now being exhibited in New York, and which was painted here in brother George Corson's Hall which we built during the fiercest, stormiest period of the abolition crusade, in order that we might have a place in which we could have Anti-Slavery Lectures, is undergoing criticism in New York, where it is now on exhibition. We are delighted with the praise which it receives. Nearly every leading

paper has spoken of it in terms of eulogy, and these are reprinted by papers elsewhere all over the Northern States.

One Baltimore paper has denounced it as a lie. I pin here the utterance of a writer in the Enquirer [sic] of Philadelphia of yesterday. The New York Tribune, Herald, Commercial Advertiser and Philad. Press have had long and favorable notices.

June 8: Sunday.

Thomas has rec'd. many letters, and other notices in the papers, all very flattering. It is now in N. York on exhibition. A few days ago he rec'd. a request from the manager of the Academy, asking leave to continue it in New York another month, as the stream of visitors was still pretty full. From there, it is to go to Boston, Philad., &c.

I have written letters to correspondents and friends today and read pamphlets sent to me by the authors and sent my opinion of them. This I have done to be comfortable as well as to perform usual duties. I try to answer every respectful letter.

I have rec'd., within three days, two invitations to State Med. Soc. of N. Jersey, at Cape May, an invitation to a discussion in Berks Co. Med. Soc. on Typho-malarial Fever, and an invitation from Dr. Lamberton, Prest. Lehigh University, to the Commencement and to his reception. Will pin them on next page.

June 17: Tuesday.

Our son Joseph came here on Friday evening, direct from Jefferson Barracks. His sister Frannie and her two children, Bertha and Charlie, had been out at his house for about three weeks, having a delightful visit, and as I had written to him that his mother was having trouble with her heart, he came with Frannie. He had intended to come a little later. He looks very well, is very brisk and pleasant.

I have rec'd. a good many letters within a few days. Some of them I pin here, as they may interest some one try showing how my mind was occupied. I might say a good many come every day almost.

June 18: Wednesday.

Yesterday afternoon I busied myself cleaning my office table of pamphlets, journals, papers of various kinds, replying to letters, &c. Was very busy; became very warm, and just as Follen got home at  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 6 P.M., was attacked by palpitation. Wife and Mary and Joseph had gone to Tacie's to tea. I said nothing to Follen about it, but ate supper, then read the "Bulletin." After that, [read] James Russell Lowell's writing. There are various subjects treated in an Octavo of more than 250 pages. What a beautiful and instructive writer! How many new thoughts he presented to me! and how beautifully they were clothed. The palp. cont'd. all night, until sunrise this morning. Not a wink did I sleep. I had to take  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr. morph. so as to lie comfortably, and the morph. always keeps me awake.

I feel quite well now, save the stimulation from the  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr. morph. I wish to write a medical paper today, the history of a case of Cerebritis or Meningitis, the latter I think. It was violent in its onset and course, but free bleeding and leeching gave me success.

June 20: Friday.

[Am] very well. Follen bought a Sorrel Horse on Wednesday evening for \$210

of a man in Germantown, a riding horse. We call him Lexington, as he is a Kentucky horse.

Joseph is still here and riding about with me daily in the forenoon. In the afternoon, we need not go generally.

Mary Quinn, long a favorite "help" in Father-in-law, Edward Foulke's family at Penllyn, died yesterday. Her name originally was Mary Smith (Irish woman), has now been several years married to Jeremy Quinn.

Friday noon, while at dinner, Follen came in from Phila. It was excessively hot and as he had walked from Spring Mill, we felt that something unusual had happened. He handed Joseph a telegram from Jefferson Barracks, from the Doctor, Chief Surgeon, stating that his son (Joseph's son) Edward was sick and asking him to return at once. So he at once began to get his things together and will leave here at 4 P.M. for the City, will leave Broad & Market for home at 9 P.M.

Follen started at 1 P.M. on Horseback for Consho. & then for Phila. and will meet Jos. at 9<sup>th</sup> & Green depot, about 5 o'clock.

We are extremely sorry that this has occurred as, even if he should be better when Jos. reaches home, he, Joseph, will be so unhappy till he gets there.

At 3 P.M. Joseph, his mother and Mary & myself went down to Susan's and at 4, Jos. and self went with his trunk to the depot. There I took leave of him, possibly for ever, and went slowly to Spring Mill, where I waited a few minutes, and when the train came down, the 4 ½ train, a few minutes afterward, he came out on the platform and we waved adieus. So now he is away, but still I expect to see him again on this Earth.

June 25: Wednesday.

Have a letter from Joseph today, one from Ada yesterday. Joseph got home Sunday, ten o'clock, found the child, Edward, better. Had bowel complaint. Was taken suddenly & violently. They think he will now do well.

As chairman of the local Com. to visit the hospital for the Insane in this County, I spent nearly the whole day, in company with other members of the Com., Dr. Whitcomb, Mrs. Cadwalader Evans and Miss Belle Shaw, examining the Institution.

June 29: Sunday.

We were making hay last week. This afternoon Follen and self started at 2 o'clock up to the farm where David Rittenhouse lived in when he made his observation on the "transit of Venus." As we went, I was enabled to give him the names of all the people who lived in the houses which we passed until we arrived at Mr. Gouldey's, who has lived in the Rittenhouse house ever since 1799, his father having bought the house of the heirs of David Rittenhouse. We found old Mr. Gouldey, aged 85, his wife aged 79, and their son and his family. We spent an hour with these people very splendidly, looking at the old deeds, examined the old house which bears [the] date 1749, and hearing the old man's history of the olden times. Then they showed us the spot on which his observatory stood, David Rittenhouse's observatory I mean.

We returned by the "back road," "Townshipline Road," and again I was enabled to entertain Follen by my histories of every place which we passed. Every house within miles of home has reminiscences for me. Many of them pleasant, some of scenes of suffering from disease, &c. But memory brought to me as I passed this and that place,

scenes and incidents of times when I was a boy, and of men and women then the prominent people of their regions, but now long-time deceased.

We reached home at 5:20 P.M. and were free to say that in all that ride, we had not seen so beautiful a house and surroundings as our own. Not one place, where the lawn was half so large, the trees and shrubbery so numerous, and so well cared for, so trimmed and so varied in kind.

“Mother” and Mary were in the piazza awaiting our coming and Catherine, our domestic and her daughter Annie Himmian [sic], had supper almost ready. “Matt and Dan” were ready to take the horse, and we “were hungry as Bears.” So all was well.

I am one of the Memorial Committee, or rather am to be, to arrange for the monument to David Rittenhouse, under the auspices of the “Montgomery County Centennial Association,” which is now preparing for a Celebration on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Committee, “The Memorial Committee,” as it is called, [is] composed of six, with Hon. Jones Detweiler (was once a Democratic Senator from our County, hence the Honorable) chairman, Sam’l. Jarrett, [space] Rittenhouse, Hon. Hiram C. Hoover (once associate Judge of our Court, hence Honorable), Hoffman, Esq., Surveyor.

July 2: Wednesday.

Yesterday I had three men besides my two, to make hay. I was very busy in the morning till 9 o’clock, taking Follen to Consho., seeing two patients in Spring Mill, when at 9 o’clock I was struck by palpitation. Had to visit Mrs. Moses Peirce and Mrs. Wm. Rex, so I kept “right on,” got home at noon, took dinner and lay down. At 3 P.M. it went off. Then I went to Consho., Sp. Mill, &c.

After supper I was again attacked. After sitting up an hour, went to bed. At 10 P.M. it went off. Slept not a wink until 3 in the morning. Got up at 6 ½, dressed and walked out in the yard and in a few minutes, it attacked me again., only a few minutes ago. It is still on me as I write. It is only about a week ago that I had quite a heavy spell of many hours.

July 3: Thursday.

Had a good nights rest, and feel very well this morning. Have five men at the harvest. Hope to get a good deal in today.

July 14: Monday.

Have been very well since the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Have all the hay and harvest, save one load of hay, in the barn. Have a great deal of hay, 12 or 15 tons, beautiful hay. Yes! Perhaps 20 tons.

This is a most delightful morning.

Jaywood & Susan Lukens were here yesterday, also Joseph White, his wife and her two sisters.

July 23: Wednesday.

I have not had palpitation for 20 days, until today. Have been very well, have had it now for 6 hours. Must go to bed.

July 24: Thursday.

Had palpitation all night, rose at 5 A.M. after an utterly sleepless night, took a large drink of ice-water and almost immediately it ceased.

At 2 P.M., met the Memorial Committee of the Centennial Organization in the Court House to consider the subject of a memorial to David Rittenhouse.

Last Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, Follen and I rode to Elijah F. Pennypacker, spent 3 hours with his interesting family of girls, the sons were not at home, and himself & wife, my niece. Reached home at 9 P.M.

July 25: Friday.

I have been busy yesterday & today, much of the time, in preparing a Medical paper on the Cholera of 1832, for the "Medical Times."

July 26: Saturday.

Finished the first part of my paper, as much as will be allowed in one issue of the "Medical Times" of Phila. Practiced some. Wm. spent three hours with me here.

August 6: Wednesday.

Was attacked by palpitation last night at 10 o'clock, while in bed, lasted till morning. I got no sleep.

August 16: Saturday.

Had an attack of palp. three days ago, again last evening. Lasted me nearly all night.

I have been engaged in many ways, with the preparing for the Centennial Exposition, attending the meetings at Norristown, preparing my 2<sup>nd</sup> paper on Cholera, 25 pages of fools cap, practicing some, &c.

I have been appointed by the Memorial Committee to suggest the inscription to be put on the monument to David Rittenhouse. I shall have to get something for all the four sides,

A lovely summer, so cool that I have scarcely seen a person dressed in thin clothes, as is usual in summer.

Had a ride to Ambler this morning, took my niece Ida Corson along with me.

J. B. Lippincott sent me 50 copies of my 1<sup>st</sup> paper on Cholera today.

I am having a bowel complaint today that makes me some uncomfortable.

August 17: Sunday.

I have been in the office all day nearly, writing & reading, looking at a few matters which I think I shall need to know, for I fear it will devolve on me to speak at the dedication of the monument to be erected by the Centennial Organization on Sep. 10<sup>th</sup> or thereabouts. There is no other one, I am told, of the members of the "Memorial Committee," able or willing to do it, and though the chairman has not said anything to me about my doing it, yet Col. Bean yesterday told me it would have to be done by a member of the Committee, and that I would have to do it. So I am quietly looking up the life and works of David Rittenhouse. The time is short, and I have much on my hands to do, beside that. I hope I shall not be called on.



This afternoon [I] took Mary, my gd. daughter Frannie Yocom & our woman's daughter Annie Himean to a color'd camp, or rather Methodist meeting at Spring Mill this 3 P.M. There was a great number of young people there. It was a color'd meeting. We staid but a short time.

August 24: Sunday.

I am now in rather a quandary. Last Friday one of my old patrons came to me in fearful distress, told me she wished me to come at once to her house. I could get no idea from her about what dreadful thing had happened. I went with her. It was James Barnett's wife. She said her daughter Lizzie had been taken to Phila. by young Edward Dewees and had her "operated on." She said she was dying. When we got to the house, she ran up stairs and before I got my horse tied, she came out again and said she was dying, was cold all over. I found the poor girl as pale as death, greatly frightened, believing no doubt from her mother's behavior that she really was dying. I assured her that she was not, that she would probably do very well. She then confirmed what her mother had said about Ed Dewees, and said that the operation was done by a short man at 149 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Phila., and that Ed Dewees was present when the operation was done. After quieting her and relieving her pain somewhat, I found a foetus of about 2 ½ mos. in the chamber, with blood & faeces.

I went to Norristown, left word for my nephew Dr. Ellwood M. Corson to come down. At 4 P.M. we went to see her. He examined her and thought the afterbirth had come away. She did not say much in his presence about what had happened. I forgot, neglected to have her do it.

So at or about 7 P.M., I took Dr. Leedom there with me, and had her confirm it in his presence. On the next day, Saturday, yesterday, he visited her (I did not) and said she was very comfortable.

The matter disturbed Follen greatly, and it has given me great uneasiness. I do not want to bring trouble on young Dewees' family, or on Barnett's, but still less do I want to shield young Dewees and above all Dr. Buchanan, an old abortionist, who has not long since come out of prison. I could scarcely sleep, from thinking about it, since. I will go this morning and see if they are not going to prosecute the Doctor, as they said they would. If they do not, I shall probably make the case known to the District Attorney.

Noon. They seem quite willing to do it, if it is the proper thing, though it would be dreadfully hard to do it. They expect young Dewees there tonight; I will see tomorrow which they determine on.

The Barretts are hesitating about prosecuting the old Dr. Buchanan. The young man Dewees called to see the girl and was very desirous to marry her, said it was her doings not his, that another girl who had had an operation performed in the same way had told her of it.

**Editor's note:** On top of that page in the diary are pasted two short newspaper clippings from the Sunday Times, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 1884. One stating that "Dr. Hiram Corson, of Plymouth, Montgomery county, has become so hopelessly insane that he will probably be removed to an asylum. Insanity first showed itself after his doing jury duty a few months ago." The other announced that "A very unfortunate statement occurred in a

paragraph among the State items in THE TIMES on Sunday. It was to the effect that Dr. Hiram Corson, of Montgomery county, had become insane. There is no truth whatever in the statement. The information was had from a suburban paper. Dr. Corson's name was evidently confounded with that of a person whose case he is investigating under the direction of the committee on lunacy of the State Board of Public Charities. Dr. Corson is in excellent health, both mentally and physically."

In reference to this, Dr. Corson wrote the following into his diary: "This arose, as is said in the 2<sup>nd</sup> slip, from my being engaged in getting Joseph Misson in to the hospital. They have him chained in his house."

August 31: Sunday.

Dr. Leedom has been away for a week, trying to see, and get well acquainted with a rich girl, who is visiting at his brother Joseph's Cottage at Cape May, one whom Joseph has hunted up, for Dr. Oscar, and "who has no end of money." Joseph married a rich wife and Dr. Oscar has been looking for one for several years.

On account of his absence, I have had his cases and my own to attend. I have also had to attend three days, part of each, at Norristown, once with the Com. on Lunacy, to investigate a case of cruelty to an insane son; one day to the Centennial & Historical Organizations, and to the Antiquarian.

Had palpitation two or three one day a week ago. Since have been quite well. Do not take anything.

September 5: Friday.

11 A.M. Very hot, 88. Very hot yesterday. The heat of no days in the year is so hard for me to bear as the hot days of September. There is a glare & heat of the sun that induces sun stroke more readily than at other times.

The Centennial people are getting ready as fast as they can.

I have a long letter from my nephew, Dr. C. S. Dolley, by which I learn he is to go to Naples, to Germany, France & England for a year to study Biology, so as to be ready to fill a Chair on that subject in the University of Pa., in Phila. next year.

September 6: Saturday.

Went to Norristown and found our Centennial people busy as possible in the Court House, putting the old articles to be exhibited in place. The house has been fixed for it, by making a floor over the tops of the seats. It is a grand-looking place. Daughter Tacie had quite a fine show from the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward, one of the poorest of the Wards, save a few families, and they have done nothing. But Tacie has not much enjoyment in it, for a few days since, a large "Firm" in Phila. to whom her husband sent all his manufactured goods for many years, failed and he will suffer great loss. A few days will show the loss sustained. It will "clean him out," I think. And what is as bad, will probably involve all his mother has. She was a partner with him.

September 7: Sunday.

I have had palpitation from eleven A.M. until 5 P.M., when it went suddenly as I was writing a letter. When it is upon me, I am more comfortable when writing than in any other way, so have written several this P.M.

September 11: Thursday.

The Centennial of Montgomery County's existence as a county was on the 9<sup>th</sup>, and on that day, we opened it, the exhibition in the Court House, of antique relics. Also erected a monolith to the memory of David Rittenhouse, an eminent astronomer of this county.

The Historical Society of Montgomery County, organized only about one year ago, took into consideration a few months since the propriety of celebrating the First Anniversary. An association was formed, numerous committees were appointed, persons were selected in every township and borough to collect whatever could be interesting from age, or association with important events. There was also appointed a chairman of a Committee to be called the Memorial Committee, who was to select five others to aid him. The Committee were

Hon. Jones Detweiler, Chairman;

He appointed as Aids

Dr. Hiram Corson;

Hon. Hiram C. Hoover;

Hoffman, Esq.;

Samuel Jarrett, Ex Treasurer;

Rittenhouse.

This Com. resolved to erect a Monolith to honor David Rittenhouse, an astronomer of this County, who died in 1796. They appointed me to select the inscriptions for the four sides.

The stone is a single block of Quinary granite eleven feet long. 4 feet is to be left rough, the other seven to be chiseled to 2 feet square in the base, tapered on its 4 sides to one foot square at the top, to be polished on every side two feet high from the water shed (the top of the first foot).

The inscriptions furnished by me are

1<sup>st</sup> David Rittenhouse  
Eminent Astronomer  
and Mathematician.  
Born 1732.  
Died 1796.

---

2<sup>nd</sup> He calculated  
and observed  
The Transit of Venus.  
July 9<sup>th</sup> 1766.

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3<sup>rd</sup> Erected by the Montgomery  
County Centennial  
Association Sep. 9, 1884.

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Between the two dates on the 4<sup>th</sup> side is cut a perpendicular line to be used by Surveyors as a mark to which they may point the compass when correcting the instrument annually. The stone being the north-end of the Meridian line established there some years ago.

The erection of the monolith was completed on Monday, Sep. 8<sup>th</sup>.

1<sup>st</sup> day. The Centennial Exhibition was formally opened at 10 A.M., and at 11 A.M., the Ceremonies of Unveiling the Monolith took place.

The attendance on this day [1<sup>st</sup> day] was very good. Norristown was gay with flags everywhere. But the day was so intensely hot that many could stay but a short time in the Court House where the exhibit of antiquities was made. A floor had been made over the tops of all seats and rows of glass cases prepared for all valuables. The cases were all crowded, and the walls covered with old goods. We were all astonished at the size of the collection.

2<sup>nd</sup> day, Wednesday. The Literary Exercises took place in the "Music Hall" on Main St. at 11 A.M. By ten o'clock, the streets were alive with people. B[y] 10 ½ the Hall was crowded. At 11 A.M. the Curtain rose, showing on the stage the President, Vice Presidents, Orator, Poet, Historian & visiting guests, and back of them on seats rising one above another, one hundred singers, ladies front & gentlemen on the rear seats. It was quite a pleasant sight for the audience, while the audience packed everywhere was a still grander sight to those on the stage. As I am a Vice President of the Historical Society, I had a pleasant seat on the front of the stage on the right side, and had an admirable view of the whole affair.

Historical Address by William Buck	valuable
Poem by Hon. Geo. N. Corson.	a disjointed Rhyme
General Address, Rev'd. Weizer	Admirable

Rev'd. Weizer is nephew of Judge B. M. Boyer, son of his sister Caroline Boyer, whom I knew before her marriage. Geo. Corson is son of my brother Charles. Mr. Buck has long been engaged in hunting up the early history of our County.

I have had a palpitation of the heart ever since eleven o'clock today. It is now 8 P.M., and though it has pounded away violently ever since at the rate of 160 times in a minute, and when I walk at 180 or so, I have written many letters, and all this about the Centennial, and had comfort in it. I am so much more comfortable when engaged in reading or writing so as to forget my infirmities, and as I cannot lie down with comfort, I prefer thus to employ my time.

After these exercises, the exhibit at the Court House was visited by crowds all day.

3<sup>rd</sup> day. Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>. Early in the morning, I took daughter Mary and her mother up. Got there at 9 ½ A.M. Streets filled with moving crowds of people.

We had had invitations to dine or rather lunch at Dr. Ellwood M. Corson's, also with Dr. Lewis W. Read (my nephew) and family. As Ellwood's was first rec'd., we went there but not till we had had a good look at the Exhibition in the Court House.

About 11 ½ P.M. [A.M.], the Procession appeared and for an hour it wended its way. Band upon Band gave us music. Civic companies of various kinds, military

companies, agriculturalists in various branches, were there to show the advance in machinery from 1784 to 1884. It was a grand procession.

The young Indians, boys and girls from the Lincoln Institute, or rather from the "General Wayne," where they are rusticated during the Summer vacation, filled large wagons. After all passed, we had lunch. Then went back to the exhibition, but found it so crowded that we declined to go in, but went to see Dr. Mary Stinson, opposite the Court House, and after a short visit came home. It is said 7000 people visited the exhibition today = \$1750.

September 12: Friday.

4<sup>th</sup> day. The exhibition was again crowded today, all day. Today clothes [sic] the exhibition. I did not go. At 11 A.M. was taken with palpitation, which lasted me till 10 P.M.

September 13: Saturday.

I went with Follen early to Conshohocken, then visited Benjn. Harry who has Epithelial Cancer of the side of his face, also Mrs. Howard Wood & her daughter, also Harry Hitner, on consultation with Dr. Pelly. Then went to Norristown, taking Mary with me, for our things, but daughter Susan had them all moved home before we reached there.

September 17: Wednesday.

Mrs. Cresson & Son's great loss by failure of Brooke Miller & Co. About 10 days ago, the above firm of Brooke & Miller failed. Mrs. Cresson & her son Wm., our son-in-law, trading under the firm name of W. L. Cresson & Mary Cresson will lose about \$50,000. It will sweep away all they are worth. They are very sad about it. Tacie, our daughter, bears up pretty well. They have 4 children. The eldest Carrie [Caroline] is 18, Jim about 16, Nancy [Ann] nearly 13, Mary 12 or 11. The two youngest were about to enter private school where they had been used to go, but their mother thought she could not bear the expense, but her sister Susan Lukens went up this week and told her to send them and she would pay the bill. I suppose I shall have to do without rent. But I have had almost none for all the time they have been there, none for several years, and only 120 for two or three years, and for the last three \$144 per year. I hope to be able to lose it until they can pay again. The children will soon be grown up and able to do something. If his failure should involve no discredit, and it does not seem to have done it yet, as several storekeepers have sent word that they can send freely for whatever they may need and if they should never be able to pay, they will never ask them for it.

September 27: Saturday.

I have heard nothing more of the prospect of the Cressons. They do not know how they will fare.

It will be two weeks tomorrow since I had palpitation. I have been very active during that time, practicing, reading, writing and overseeing the men on the farm.

Two persons, one in Doylestown, the other at Franklinville, this County, have called on me to visit, one her sister, the other his daughter, who are insane in their homes.

They want me to visit them and advise what shall be done with them. I am also to visit a young man at Chestnut Hill, who has been greatly neglected, abused I should say, son of Charles Streeper, to determine his condition. This by order of Judge Boyer. I suggested to Judge Boyer to send him to the Institution for Feeble Minded persons, at Media. He highly approves it, if I should find him to be a proper person for that place.

My good wife, now in her 73<sup>rd</sup> year, is very desirous to go with a party of friends to Luray Cave. I feel that she is not fit for the trip, and I do not want to go. We will see how it will result. We have [a] great drought.

I am re-reading "The Light of Asia." It is very, very beautiful.

There is a large party to go to Luray Cave on Thursday, Oct, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and I am much urged to go along. As wife is desirous to go, it may be that I shall go. I would greatly prefer to stay at home, as I do not care about seeing new places and meeting new people. It is about 290 miles away, by way of Harrisburgh. It is a most remarkable limestone Cave, it is said.

**Editor's note:** On the next page in the diary, Dr. Corson copied the following letters of resignation:

Plymouth Meeting  
Sep. 25, 1884

To Mahlon H. Dickinson.

President of Board of Public Charities

Years ago your Board appointed me "official visitor to the Jail & Alms-House of Montgomery County," a trust which I endeavored faithfully to perform. It was, all the time, a labor of love; but as I am now just rounding into my 81<sup>st</sup> year, I feel that I am becoming unfitted for the performance of most the pleasant duties assigned to me. I therefore resign, give back to your board the trust given to me.

Should you desire to appoint some one in my place, I can, with great confidence, recommend to your board Dr. Ellwood M. Corson of Norristown, as one eminently fitted to perform the duties, if willing to accept them.

With a deep sense of the great value of the Board of Public Charities to the insane of this great Commonwealth, I beg you to convey to the members of the Board my kindest regards.

Yours truly  
Hiram Corson

To: Phillip C. Garrett

"Chairman of Committee on Lunacy."

It was the pleasure of your Committee some months ago to appoint me to visit the "Eastern Hospital" and to perform certain duties. It was pleasant to me to accede to your wishes, and yet I fear I have but poorly performed the duties required of me.

Advanced age has perhaps unfitted me. I beg you to accept my resignation of the office given to me.

The importance of such supervision as your board has inaugurated is apparent to me.

If you desire to fill my place, I can say, that I know no one better fitted for these duties than my nephew, Dr. Ellwood M. Corson, a skillful surgeon and physician in the very prime of life, a resident of Norristown.

Be pleased to present my kindest regards to every member of your Committee and accept for yourself the respect of yours truly,

Hiram Corson.

See Mr. Dickinson's answer, the other side of next leaf.

September 28: Sunday.

27<sup>th</sup>, yesterday, just two weeks since my last palpitation, I had an attack at 4½ P.M., which lasted till 10 ½ P.[M.]. I took ½ gr. Morph. directly after it came and was pretty comfortable.

Yesterday I visited daughter of Samuel Brinton, who lives half a mile beyond Centre Square. She has been for a number of years in a peculiar condition, will not come down stairs to her meals, goes to bed with all her clothes on, don't keep herself clean, &c., &c.

Had I not heard about her before visiting her, I would not have discovered that there was anything wrong about her.

The object in sending for me seems to have been to show that she is well cared for. Since Streeper has been brought up on trial for keeping his son for a number of years confined in a room, summer and winter, and in utter neglect, and since the notice to doctors, from the Committee on Lunacy, to report all cases of insanity in private families, people who have such inmates, feel that they too may be summoned to show how they are treated.

I met Dr. Meschter (their family doctor) by my appointment. I hold the case under consideration, shall see Judge Boyer in relation to it. She ought to be in the hospital for Insane, but her father cannot afford to pay \$5.00 per week.

Yesterday Harry Hitner, a patient in whose case I have been in consultation many times, died at noon. He was [the] son of D. O. Hitner. He was a low, vulgar, profane, obscene fellow. I could not on his own account feel any interest in his case. I felt no special desire to cure him, save as an evidence of the potency and appropriateness of the treatment.

October 3: Friday.

Dr. Ellwood M. Corson [was] appointed in my stead. H.C.

Trip to Luray Caves.

On the morning of Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> we were up at 5 o'clock. At ¼ before six, Follen, his mother and myself, were at Spring Mill Station of the Pa. Schuylkill [Schuylkill] Valley R. Road, and at 45 minutes of nine o'clock were moving out of the Pa. R. R. Station at Broad and Filbert Sts. with 68 others of our party ticketed for Luray in Virginia.

We whirled rapidly on to Lancaster, Harrisburgh, Carlisle, Chambersburgh, Hagerstown and reached Luray at 7 ½ P.M. Took supper and at 9 P.M. entered the

Cavern. Robert R. Corson, the President of the Luray Cave Company, was our leader during the trip, "The Caverns of Luray."

Wonderful! Wonderful! Wonderful! Miles in extent, Stalactites by thousands. Massive columns, tiny ones, draping in profusion. The sight in the very first cavern amazed me; and as I went on, "the wonder grew" to admiration, almost ecstasy [sic]. Sixty five of us wandered on for two hours, until I was weary and, to use the expression of the Vicar Wakefield's daughter, "in a muck of sweat." Mother (wife) was too weary with the long ride to go through the cave.

Rose at 7. Breakfast. Before 9 A.M. left Luray for the Natural Bridge, ninety miles further south. Reached the hotel by stage with 4 Mules attached, about 2 P.M., nine of us inside and nine on top. Thermometer 100°. This seems incredible, but it is true. It has been a very hot, dry time for 3 weeks. After tea, we went to the bottom of the Creek, over which is the bridge. It was illuminated for us. It is a great curiosity, 187 [feet] high to the arch, above that perhaps 20 feet, possibly more.

October 4: Saturday.

After breakfast, Robt. R. Corson & wife, self and wife, Richard Foulke, M.D. and wife, took the carriage and crossing the Natural Bridge, ascended for half a mile or more till we reached the Observatory in the "Park," which comprises some hundreds of acres. It is yet in a rude state, though there are many winding roads, laid out so that carriages may go for miles on roads over hill and dale. The views of the Blue Mountains are splendid.

After dinner [we] left for Luray, which we reached just before sunset. The Sixty nine were at Natural Bridge but a few started for White Sulphur Springs, Dr. Mary H. Stinson, her brother Frank & his wife.

October 5: Sunday.

I was called after breakfast to visit a woman in consultation with an old physician. At 10 o'clock, as my wife had not yet seen the caverns, Robt., Richard and their wives & ourselves went in. We had a most pleasant time, a fine chance to see it all, much better than when the whole crowd were in. Spent the afternoon pleasantly in the large and airy hotel, from which the view is charming.

At 5:40 P.M. we took the cars for Hagerstown and arrived there at 9 P.[M.], took supper at the Restaurant, where it was ready for us. Then went to the "Baldwin House" to lodge. Robert had secured a pleasant room for us on the first sleeping floor.

October 6: Monday.

Left for Philad. at 8:55, arrived in Philad. at 3:15 P.M., took first train on the new Schuylkill Valley Rail Road, and got home about 6 P.M., safe & sound. Had a good time, made some pleasant acquaintance, saw the Caverns & Natural Bridge, and came home in good health. Weighed at the Luray Inn 147 pounds.

October 10: Friday.

Have practiced a good deal since I came back. Day before Yesterday I was 80 years old. I seem very well. Follen gave me a box of good letter paper, which was acceptable, as I wanted some, or to speak more properly, I needed some, as my stock was



nearly out. It does not seem as though it can be true that I am 80 years old.

A great Electrical Exhibition has taken place in Phila. for weeks. Yet, I have not gone to see it. Did not care to go.

October 11: Saturday.

I had palp. for several hours, Sep. 29<sup>th</sup>, which I forgot to put down.

Today I had it. It struck me pretty hard just as I finished breakfast. I took ¼ gr. Morph. directly, because I wanted to go to Conshohocken with Follen, and knew I could do it better if I should take some. It went off in a few minutes.

October 16: Thursday.

Had palp. six hours from 4 P.[M.] till 10 P.[M.]. Was taken at Norristown, did several things there and then went, on my way home, around by the Sandy Hill Creamery, to see three grown persons with Diphtheria, all in their home, all taken the same day. Cause, putridity in a drain from the "Creamery." Was very sick after I got home, till it [the palpitation] went off.

Got letters from Miss Fell and Thomas W. Knowles in reply to pamphlets sent to them.

October 17: Friday.

Went at midnight last night to Barren Hill to see Mrs. Henry Hellings. First time I have been out at night for a good while. Hope not to go again.

Have been for several days attending three persons with Diphtheria. [They] were all "taken" at once, all working in the Creamery. An offensive drain has caused it, I think. It is scarcely light enough to see lines this morning.

October 18: Saturday.

"Mother" (wife) and self rec'd. letters from Joseph and Ada yesterday. Very glad to hear, as they said they did from my letter, that we intend to come to see them "right away," like patients always want "the doctor" to come. Wife has written them that we scarcely expect to come.

Rec'd. a letter, newspaper rather, from John S. Williams of Bucks Co., who was one of our party to Luray, in which is a letter from him giving a beautiful description of the trip, the Luray Caverns, and the Natural Bridge, and ending with a complimentary notice of myself, the oldest of the party, within two days of 80 years when I reached home.

I am doing too much practice. Have some horrible cases of Diphtheria, besides other cases, and am also writing an account of the various medical papers which I have written during my medical life, for Wm. J. Buck, our Historian who has written for it. I have been busy on it this afternoon.

Dr. Henry H. Smith sent me his Address to the Pa. State Medical Society. I wrote him a reply with thanks, and next day I rec'd. the letter which I have pinned here.

The wife of Walter H. Corson has been very ill for eleven days under the medical care of Dr. George Highley, his cousin, a young practitioner of little experience. Two days since, I was called in consultation with him and Dr. E. M. Corson. It is a pity she was not under the care of a more experienced man at first. She is very, very ill.

Have been receiving and writing many letters for the past week. My sick people take up too much of my time.

October 23: Thursday.

Dr. Charles S. Dolley goes today to Europe to enter the great Biological Laboratory, or as it is called Massive Laboratory of Naples.

He is to fill the only Chair that America has in that Labrotary [Laboratory] and which belongs to the University of Pennsylvania. After he shall have spent a year in that and other places, he will return, and expects to fill a Chair of Biology in the University of Pa. It is a great promotion for one so young.

How strange is destiny! Some years ago, when Joseph was going as Assistant Surgeon to Fort Bridger, I told him to look out for minerals and fossils. He soon sent me some bones and teeth. I took them to Doctor Leidy, who was delighted to find that Joseph was there. He at once wrote to him to continue his search. This he did. Finally Joseph invited Dr. Leidy and wife to come out, and, through his influence with officials, obtained free passages for Doctor & Mrs. Leidy from Omaha to Fort Bridger, about 1000 miles. Sarah Dolley, mother of Charles Sumnur Dolley, asked me to see if Dr. Leidy would take Charles along. They took him. All staid 3 months. Dr. Leidy & Joseph collected fossils. Charles went with the Carter Boys & Girls. Thus the intimacy with Dr. Leidy began. When Charles afterwards became a student in medicine in Phila., he kept up his intimacy with Dr. Leidy. After graduation, with Leidy's approval, went to Johns Hopkins University and spent a year in Biological studies. He left there in July last, wrote a paper and read it before the Academy of Natural Sciences, and afterwards rec'd. the above appointment. Dr. Leidy being the Director in the New Biological Section, he doubtless favored Dr. Dolley's claims and appointed him.

October 26: Sunday.

Death of Mrs. Anna Albertson Corson, wife of Walter Corson, Sunday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> at 1 ½ P.M. Two weeks and two days ago she took tea with Helen Hovenden & husband; was lively and well. Was taken with sickness & vomiting two days after. Dr. George Highley, my brother Charles' grandson, was called, a young man of only a little practice in two years. He attended a whole week, she very sick & rejecting all food and drink. He does not seem to have known at all what ailed her. Then my nephew Dr. Ellwood Maulsby Corson was called, found she had not made a drop of water for several days. He diagnosed, acute disease of the kidney, but she had suffered greatly, been much weakened, and his efforts, made but little impression. Two days afterwards I was called at midnight, as they thought she would live but a few minutes. I did not think she was dying, spoke cheerily to her, assured her mother that there was no immediate danger. She soon became comfortable. We supported her for four days, by Enemata of milk and brandy. She did not secrete but about 2 ounces of urine in any 24 hours. It was sad that one so young should thus pass away, pass away too, perhaps because of a lack of early, efficient treatment. Why Walter Corson should select a mere stripling, one wholly inexperienced, when he had two uncles who had each practiced half a century; one cousin, Dr. Lewis W. Read who has practiced more than 30 years, and who is Surgeon-General of our State; and another cousin, Dr. Ellwood M. Corson, one of the most skillful physicians and surgeons of the State who has practiced more than 20 years;

both of the last two having served also as surgeons in the War, and all of whom were as easy of access as Dr. Highley, so say why he should have passed all these by to call on Dr. Highley, is past my finding out, and throws a heavy responsibility on him from which he will suffer.

November 2: Sunday.

I have written several letters this evening. Mary & myself have been alone as Follen and his mother have gone to "Cousin Emily's," as the children are accustomed [to call] my nephew Elias H. Corson's widow. She feels very sad on account of the death of Anna, Walter's wife. We, wife & self, expect to start from Phila. at 11 A.M. Wednesday for Jefferson Barracks, about 1000 miles from here. We are old people for such a trip, but the Pullman Cars, The Limited Express as the line is called, is so comfortable, and all the meals can be taken as the Cars fly along. Indeed, we need not once leave them, so we shall likely get along right well. I have had but a few minutes of palpitation for 17 days, so it is likely, I shall have it before I start or soon after, but I hope all will go well with us.

November 5: Wednesday.

At 8 ½ A.M. we left home from Conshohocken. There took the Pa. road at 9<sup>10</sup>, were at Broad and Filbert Sts., at 9:50 A.M. There Frannie, Bertha, Follen came to see us off, and before we left them, Susan and her Aunt Rebecca Corson (Robert's wife) joined us. At eleven (11 A.M.) precisely, we left the Depot, in the fast train, in a Pullman Car. The fare was 22 Dols. 75 cts. for each, and \$6 each for the Pullman car, making in all \$57.50.

We had no need to leave the Car during the whole ride, as the meals and all conveniences were furnished us in the Car.

November 6: Thursday.

At 7 P.[M.] on the 6<sup>th</sup> we arrived at St. Louis. In a moment after we stopped, Joseph bounced into the Car and greeted us affectionately. In ½ hour more, we were on the train to Jefferson Barracks, 12 miles down the river Mississippi. As we stepped from the Cars at the Depot for the Barracks, little Mary Carter Corson, Joseph's daughter came skipping to meet us, and in a moment more, mother and Licut Bellow, came down the long stairs that lead up to the "Parade Ground," on the north side of which Joseph's residence is situated.

November 16: Sunday.

We have had a very pleasant time here. The weather has been most delightful. Every day has been just like every other, bright, warm enough to ride about without an overcoat. Not a cloud scarcely since we came. I have had many pleasant rides over this beautiful and fertile region with Jos. Indeed we were riding every day.

One day we visited the hospital for the Insane, about six miles away, back of Carondelet. It was the City Hospital. In it I found men with wristlets on, and also saw an "Utica Crib," an iron cage, like a coffin, wire cage I ought to have said, in which troublesome patients are locked in, a cruel thing, not seen in our hospitals. I told the chief physician that in two of the Penna. hospitals women physicians had the entire

medical charge of the women insane. He said he did not like them, seemed quite irritated as he spoke of them. He was also quite cross that he had no out-door duties. The care of the farm, and power to provide everything needed in the house, and the hiring and dismissing attendants had been taken from him. I think it is not improbable that my report to our State Society five years ago on that subject caused the change. His patients were not, in my opinion, well cared for. The St. Louis City Council appointed a Health Commission. General Stephenson is the Health Commissioner of the City (appointed by the Council, I suppose), and he appoints a chief physician to the Hospital who is called Superintendent, but as stated, has no duties but that of physician. He has two aids termed Assistant Physicians.

November 17: Monday.

Having packed our trunk and yet every thing ready for a start for home yesterday, we rose at 5 this morning and after a light breakfast, left the depot 6:11 A.M. for St. Louis; left the depot there at 8 A.M., after bidding Joseph, who had gone with us there to see us off, goodbye, for home. At 7 P.M. reached Phila. Took the first train on Pa. R.R. for Conshohocken; reached home before 10 P.M.; all well at home.

While at Jefferson Barracks, had palpitation one morning before I got out of bed, which lasted me about 3 hours. Had palp. 12 hours on [the] 22<sup>nd</sup>, occurred just before day-light, when I had slept well all night. On [the] 28<sup>th</sup>, palp. took me this morning just at daylight, after a good sleep, having wakened only once. [It] left me at 3 P.M.

December 4: Thursday.

Have practiced daily with a few patients, "worthy ones." Talking with a young doctor a few days ago, he said one reason that he "was not very busy now is that I am not attending all the poor, only worthy poor. I replied, I suppose the worthy poor are those who pay you.

Well! He may throw off those who do not pay; for myself, I can say, I never yet refused a poor person on that account.

Nothing unusual has occurred since last writing. Three persons have addressed me, asking for an account of my writings and the societies to which I belong, &c., &c. Wm. J. Buck for the Centennial history of Montgomery Co. E. O. Wagner for the history of Montgomery Co. to be incorporated in the great Pa. history, and Dr. Weber in the history of Montgomery Co. physicians.

Since last writing, all the girls, Tacie, Susan, Bertha & Frannie, have been to see us, each one separately.

December 20: Saturday.

Since Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, I have been very well, quite free from palpitation. Yesterday, [the] 19<sup>th</sup>, I was attacked in bed, about 1 A.M.; [it] lasted me till noon. But as soon almost as it was over, I was called on to attend a neighbor's wife in confinement. Did it well.

I have done quite a good deal of practice during the last month, and have had a great deal of correspondence and other writing. My numerous Med. Journals keep me busy in reading. Indeed I have not been quite able to keep up with them.

December 21: Sunday.

Today it came on me again, lasted 12 hours. I have felt poorly enough since the attack on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

I am importuned by E. O. Wagner and Colonel Bean almost daily to write the history of my brothers for the great history of Montgomery Co., [of the] Medical Society, as well as sketches for the History of the Centennial Anniversary of the County. They are distinct works. They want the portraits of Alan, Wm., George, and myself to accompany the histories.

Sent copies of Dr. Alice Bennett's "Address on Mechanical Restraint in the Management of the Insane" to the following persons, most of them being sent in my wife's name. Several of them were ladies who were with her at Luray Cave, Miss Nellie Foulke; 2 [to] Mrs. Louisa Foulke; Miss Lucy Fee; Mrs. Joseph Smith; Mrs. John S. Williams; Mrs. Alfred Blaker; Mrs. Ada Corson; Mrs. Genl. Stephenson; Miss Hattie Farrell; Mr. Charles S. Bailey.

(The Address is the best exposition of the true principles of non-restraint I have ever seen, and I am very anxious that it shall be well spread abroad. How grand has been the success of my efforts to have women physicians in charge of the women insane).

December 25: Thursday.

"Mother," Follen, Mary & self were at Jawood [sic] Lukens and Susan's to dinner. Robt. R. Corson & wife and Jay's Father & Mother, Lewis Lukens & wife were all there. We had a very pleasant time and most excellent dinner.

I had been invited to dine with Phillip R. Freas, Editor of Germantown Telegraph. Has parted with the paper during the present year, but my engagement with Jay & Susan prevented my acceptance of it.

December 26: Friday.

Have had threatnings of Palp., but have been quite busy.

December 27: Saturday.

Had palp. from 8 P.M. yesterday until 8 A.M. today. Am writing out the life of Alan, George, Joseph D., Mary Adamson, Sarah Read, and my own and Williams for the History of Montgomery County to be issued soon. The persons getting it up all desire me to do it. I find it delicate work to say what I think is due to our family, in some matters.

December 29: Monday.

Last week I received a Certificate of Membership in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, an wholly unexpected honor.

Yesterday, Dr. Alice Bennett, Chief physician of the hospital for Insane Women at Norristown, Jay & Susan, Will Cresson and Tacie dined with us.

Last Wednesday, by appointment, I went to the Norristown Hospital to meet Jacob Rex, wife, and daughter and introduced them to Dr. Bennett. I did so, and she took us through the female department. I had often been through before, but I wished them to see it. I am anxious that influential people all over the Country shall see it; they cannot appreciate fully its importance without [seeing it].

It is a fatiguing work to go through all the wards.  
I have had several sick calls today.

December 31: Wednesday.

10 P.M. The Year is nearly gone. It has been an eventful year. Many who were well at this time last year, of our neighbors, strong men, have died. We have enjoyed good health and been blessed in many ways. I have passed into my 81<sup>st</sup> year, and my dear wife into her 73<sup>rd</sup>. We have lived in this house over 50 years. Our children grew up here, but now are all away but Follen & Mary. As I am about to go to bed, Farewell Old Year.

## 1885

January 1: Thursday.

The morning is warm, not down all night to the freezing point. Today I sent letters to Surgeon Henry H. Smith, Prof. Alfred Stillé, and Dr. George Hamilton (all of Phila.), wishing them a happy New Year, but not in the usual short way. Sent also letters to Dr. Parrish and Wm. A. Coursen on business in relation to some reforms which we wish to have made in the Morris-Plains hospital in N. Jersey. Rec'd. a letter from Dr. Bellow.

Rec'd. letter in response to mine of yesterday, from Dr. Henry Smith, the old professor of surgery in the University of Pa., also pamphlets. Also from Dr. Alfred Stillé, Professor of Practice of Medicine in the University of Pa., for about 20 or 25 years, until last year; also from Dr. George Hamilton, and aged practitioner & able medical writer of Philadelphia, long my friend.

January 10: Saturday.

Not much to record, save that I have been to the City (yesterday) to see my former pupil Dr. Anne Lukens, who has been for 8 years physician to the Nursery Home on Staten Island, where are about 500 children. Sent from N. York City, but who has resigned and has located as physician at 1068 Lexington Avenue N. E. I met at her brother's, 20<sup>th</sup> & Green Sts., Dr. Frances Emily White, Prof. in the Woman's Medical College, whom I had known before. After a pleasant visit of an hour, I went to Dr. Goodell's, spent a few minutes, then went to see Mrs. Louisa Corson (Cousin Amos's Widow); from there then came to 9<sup>th</sup> & Green to come home, but being too early, went to get some oysters in a restaurant, and met Dr. Morton, of the B. P. Charities, with whom I spent half an hour pleasantly. Bad writing all this, but my wrist is so weak, from much writing, that I can scarcely hold a pen.

Bertha & Frannie and two children each [were] here on Thursday, and last evening, Follen brought up Bertie Day and Georgie Yocom. This afternoon, Mary took them to Norristown where Foll met them all and took them to the Skating Rink, where they enjoyed themselves greatly. Bertie Day and Follen skating with hundreds of others and Mary and Georgie looking on with other hundreds. They are now in the parlor playing on piano & singing, while mother and myself are writing and sewing. Annie and Dan shutting the windows, and Catharine in the Kitchen attending to her duties.

January 15: Thursday.

Last Sunday night, the pain in my left wrist which had troubled me moderately for a few days, suddenly developed a fearful intensity in my wrist & hand about 10 P.M. The pain was fearful. I took in two or three hours, 1 grain of morph. sulphate, in  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. doses, but without relief, at least with only moderate relief. Next morning, Ellwood came and applied a liniment of equal parts of chloroform, Tinct. Aconite, and Glycerin; he wet cotton with it, covered it with oiled silk and bound all together by a flannel bandage. It burned fearfully, but soon the pain was gone, only a burning remained. From that time to the present, I have suffered a great burning, and have been utterly helpless in that hand. I have been much of the time in bed. Have read all of "In War Time" by Dr. Mitchell and much of "Life of Emerson" by Dr. Holmes.

These were interesting to me in themselves and more so that I know Dr. Mitchell quite well and have met Dr. Holmes.

Follen & Mary have gone to the "Skating Rink." Mother has gone up to bed, and I will retire in a few minutes.

Thursday at 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  P.M. was struck with palpitation; it lasted till 11 P.M., nearly 8 hours, and added to the suffering of my pained hand, was hard to bear.

January 16: Friday.

I am better today. I am squeezing, pulling, stretching my arm & fingers, and have done them some good; they are somewhat stronger.

January 18: Sunday.

I awoke this morning at 2 o'clock with palpitation, or rather I awoke then and in a minute was attacked. It lasted me without a moments intermission 13 hours, until 3 this afternoon.

The girls, Frannie and Bertha, came & spent the day. Before supper, brother Wm. came, and I was able to entertain him very pleasantly, wrote a letter and signed for him two protests to "Senate & House" [of] Rep., Pa. Will send them tomorrow by Follen.

January 22: Thursday.

Have been much engaged this week in writing histories of Alan, George, Mary, Sarah, & self. It has been very cold for past 24 hours. Mother has not been well, but [is] still moving about cheerfully, overseeing the household affairs.

January 23: Friday.

At 3 A.M., awaked with palp. It lasted me till 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  A.M. Left me feeling badly, but at 1 P.M., Mary and myself went to Wm. Livezey's, to funeral of Eliza Garretson, granddaughter of brother Alan W. Corson.

January 27: Tuesday.

9 P.M. I have been staying in the house nearly all the time since Sunday morning, save that I went to Conshohocken with Follen on Monday A.M., and to Norristown [in] P.M. Wife has had a sore throat since yesterday morning. Got some

alarmed about it today and sent to Norristown and got Ellwood to come down to see her, as I do not see very well in looking in her throat. He thinks she will do well.

Rented our small farm today for \$200 for one year.

Follen has gone to the Norristown Rink this evening. Every day he goes to his business, his law business in Philad. His office is at 926 Walnut St. He does quite a profitable business. We have to have breakfast at sunrise every morning, even now, so as to get him to Conshohocken in time for his train., the express train down. I generally go with him, then get my mail, attend to those who want me, & then come home.

January 28: Wednesday.

I have been in the house all day, save one trip to see C. Streeper at Spring Mill, who sent for me.

Part of the day I have been writing the history of my brothers, Father, &c., for the Montgomery County History.

This evening I have written to our Representatives at Harrisburgh to favor the Board of Health Bill, which we now have before the "House."

Have just rec'd. the proceedings of the Anti-Vivisection Society. I do not attend the meetings because of my dullness of hearing. I think we are doing well.

Wife's sore throat is better today. Mary & Follen have been up in her room all the evening.

January 31: Saturday.

Have not done much yesterday & today in "practice." Had a bad case of bleeding from an artery on the scalp, but of course it was easily stopped there, needed only a little pressure.

I wrote a day or two ago to Senator Sutton, to favor a "Bill" to create a Board of Health for the State. Got a reply from him today, which I pin here.

Wife has gotten well of her sore throat and is down stairs with us again.

Frannie Yocom, Mary and her mother are in the parlor, Mary playing the piano and the others singing with her occasionally.

Follen has gone to Dr. Ellwood's to an evening party. [He] was at the Rink this afternoon.

Yesterday I wrote for the Medical & Surgical Reporter a long article on a case of Inflammation of the Brain, or its Membranes.

February 3: Tuesday.

Has been very cold since Saturday. Have had a Consultation with Dr. Leedom, and have made a few visits.

Today I visited George Streeper, the imbecile young man living at Chestnut Hill, whose parents were brought before Judge Boyer some months ago, charged with using him cruelly. I was appointed, or requested by Judge Boyer at that time to visit him occasionally to see that he received proper treatment. They keep him up stairs, carry his food to him. I think he scarcely if ever gets down stairs. I urge them to put him in the Institution for the feeble minded at Media. They are rich but too stingy.



February 5: Thursday.

Yesterday morning, just after I had gone down stairs, Mary said "mother wants to see thee." I went up. She was sitting in an arm chair and smilingly said, "I had a queer spell. It seems as if my lower limbs had a fifty pound weight hanging to each of them." After a few minutes she concluded to try to go down stairs, and having hold of my arm, she got down right well. She sat up to breakfast immediately. Follen always has to eat early so as to get off to the train, and so we all eat soon, just before sunrise now.

In feeding herself, I observed she made no use of her left arm, and soon she gradually leaned to that side so much that I had to take hold of her and straighten her up. Then Follen, Mary and myself attempted to take her to the couch close at hand, but she seemed so helpless & was so heavy that it was with the greatest difficulty we got her upon it. After resting about 15 minutes, she desired to go up stairs, which I felt she was not able to do, but she got up with my aid and walked, aided by me, up to her room. She talked cheerily, and we concluded a rest in bed would probably restore her. Her only complaint was of pain in her back, over the lumbar vertebra, that was particularly sudden & sharp when attempting to rise or turn. I gave  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. morph. and she went to sleep. I sent for Susan, but she was away. Then I sent for Tacie, and she came & staid till dark. We trusted her case to time, because I could not see what to do. I felt that it was a partial palsy, but she had been pretty pale, for her to be for some weeks, though she ate well, and seemed well..

I staid with her all night, she slept well, and this morning when attempting to take her out of bed, the weakness of her left leg is very apparent. She can though stand alone for a moment, and the right leg is quite strong. The left hand she uses but it is weak.

All day Susan has been with her. Bertha and Frannie came at noon. I sent word to Tacie that as her husband was away, she need not come till morning. Dr. Ellwood was with me yesterday and this afternoon brother William came. But they did not seem to think it necessary to bleed her. So it was left. Susan staid all night. Mother had sat up in her chair a couple of hours before bed-time. Has pain in back, [gave]  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. morph by hypodermic injection.

February 6: Friday.

Noon. Mother slept well through the night. At 8 A.M. we took her out of bed and put her in the Ann Chair. She seemed exceedingly dull, sleeping quickly after talking, but a whisper merely would awaken her, and she answered questions correctly. Frannie came at 9  $\frac{1}{2}$ . She felt so uneasy, she felt she must come, and I sent for Tacie early, so three of them are here. Follen had to go to his office today.

We were exceedingly alarmed all the morning about her. I sent for Ellwood. Just before he came at 10  $\frac{1}{2}$ ., we put some very cold water on her forehead, which enlivened her much for a brief time. So that when Ellwood came, she seemed so much better that the bleeding, though discussed, was postponed. All the children think her much duller than yesterday, but she ate 10 oysters, took coffee, &c., ate three good meals yesterday, oysters, &c., &c.

February 7: Saturday

Morning. Mother has changed but little since last writing. Slept pretty well last night, but had "pain all over," the result somewhat of inability to change her position. The girls moved her a little now & then. Bertha and Frannie were with her.

This morning she was a little sick at stomach, the result perhaps of the pills action. We turned her on her right side, and she slept soundly and easily, pulse 80 breathing 20.

February 8: Sunday.

Mother has gradually improved, looks decidedly more natural, talks better, and can exert herself better when the girls attempt to move her. Jeremiah Comfort and Morton Albertson, members of Orthodox Meeting, called to see how she is, after Meeting. Isaac Styer and his wife, my niece, came also, as did Emily Corson, her daughter Emily, and her daughter-in-law, Lizzie, George's wife.

Dr. Beaver and Dr. George Highley also came up in the afternoon, also Thomas Hovenden in the evening.

I did not see any of the visitors, on account of being very sick with palpitation of heart, which began at noon and held on till nearly 10 P.M. I have been taking 25 drops Tinct. Digitalis morning & evening on an empty stomach, since last attack just two weeks ago.

February 9: Monday.

Mother did well through the night. Took oil this morning; was purged sufficiently at noon. At 3 ½ P.M., [she] had a feeling of faintness, and pain in left hypogastric region. It lasted on hour or so, despite mustard and other irritants. I then gave her 1/8 gr. sulph. Morph.

7 ½ P.M. since taking the morph., she seems about as before the spell, which we think was partly from the medicine and partly from mental operation. She was thinking of her situation probably, for she asked me if she was like Mary Quinn, a woman who has long been connected with her father's family, and since she married, has lived near us. She died a year ago of paralysis.

9 P.M. She is sleeping now, has taken ice cream and also some supper.

February 10: Tuesday.

Mother rested tolerably well, but whenever awake, complained much of her back. She appeared to suffer much from it. I put one of Hannah Williams plaster, a lead plaster, on it. The girls had first sopped it with cold water and dried it. I have remained at home all day. The two men have contrived to employ themselves doing but little, but as it has been very cold, blustering, and snowy, I did not care about their going out much.

I rec'd. letters from Dr. E. A. Wood, Pittsburgh; Dr. W. W. Keen, Phila., and some circulars. I wrote to Dr. Keen; Dr. Wood; Adele Biddle, Sec. of Anti-Vivisection Society of Philad.; Dr. Borch of St. Louis; Dr. E. M. Corson; daughter Tacie F. Cresson; Dr. W. H. Byford, Prof. of Midwifery, Chicago.

5 P.M. Mother is much more comfortable today since she was dressed, the bed changed, and the plaster put on her back. Helen Hovenden and Mary Livezey, my nieces, have been here to see mother. Follen has just returned from the City.

The weather has cleared up. We have a large Kitchen fire, a big one in this dining room, two in the parlors, one of which heats mother's bed room, one in the Entry & one in my office.

February 13: Friday.

9 P.M. ("Mother") wife has been improving steadily since last writing. So now [is] very cheerful and as some of the girls are always with her and Follen and myself frequently, she is well entertained.

Frannie and myself went to Norristown this morning, stopped awhile with daughter Tacie, then called on a woman to see if she would come nurse mother. Would not. Was too old and had a bad cough. Then went to see my niece Mary (Read) Roberts. From there to Richard R. Corson, & staid a brief time with his wife Louisa; from there to some stores and then to my nephew, Dr. L. W. Read's. Frannie and Nina Read, Dr. R's daughter, then went to several places to look for a "help," but failed; then we went back nearly to the asylum to see another; failed. Came home by 1 P.M. Ground very and hard and Thermometer 26°.

After dinner I went to see a patient or two, and to enquire for a nurse. It snowed fiercely all the time I was out.

Jawood Lukens and wife, daughter Susan, came here just at dark.

Awful Fire at Blockley Alms House. Several insane burned. It began last night before 9 o'clock. The night [was] cold. Heroic efforts [were made] to save, but some were locked in rooms and could not be released.

General Gordon, murdered at Kartoum [sic]. For a week or more we heard of the success of the Mahdi, having captured Kartoum and the probability that General Gordon was killed. It is confirmed today by a letter from the Mahdi.

Gordon was a most remarkable man, a wonderful man!

February 15: Sunday.

5:25 P.M. Sitting at 3:30 with James Yocom, my son-in-law, and my brother Dr. Wm. Corson, I was suddenly (it is of course always suddenly) [struck] with palpitation, which means that the heart which is beating regularly 60 times in a minute, suddenly jumps to a speed of 160 per minute. It announces its changed action by a sudden jerk in my breast, which informs me of what has happened. Then I feel a fullness in my chest, a general feeling of light pain all over my back from shoulder to shoulder, or rather, I ought to say, over the shoulders and up to the back of my head [with] the neck heavy affected so as to make me lean lightly forward.

9 ½ P.M. James Yocom, Jaywood Lukens, brother Wm. all have gone. I have written three letters since they went, one to Ex-Judge Richard Watson; one to Dr. Alice Bennett of Eastern Hospital at Norristown; one to son Joseph at Jefferson Barracks. My palpitation left me before six o'clock.

February 19: Thursday.

"Mother" (wife) has been improving all the week; sits up a good deal of the time. Bertha & Frannie are here now, but Susan went away at 4 P.M., when the carriage went down to take "Aunt Becky" and Aunt Emily (mother's sisters who were here since 11 A.M.) to the cars, and to bring Bertha up. Bertha & Follen came about 5 P.M.

Tacie has not been able to come this week, because her husband is away, and she had to be with the children.

It has been very cold all the week, and I have kept myself at home nearly all the time, and employed in reading & writing. I have rec'd. a great many letters and written many. Rec'd. them today from Dr. Wood, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Hamilton & Geo. W. Thomas.

February 22: Sunday.

Early on Saturday morning, yesterday morning, the house of the son-in-law of my friend Dr. George Hamilton of Philadelphia, was burned. His son-in-law was burned to death in the house. His wife jumped from the 4<sup>th</sup> story window out to a mattress and is yet alive. A son of six years was dropped from the window on to the mattress, but died in on hour. The other daughter of Dr. Hamilton, a young lady of 20 years, was in a room in the 3<sup>rd</sup> story opening on the back yard. Driven from the room by the flames, she let herself out of the window, but held on to the sill, fearing to drop, as the whole back yard was a pavement of bricks, covered with sheets of ice, the weather for a week having been intensely cold, the Thermometer at zero almost every night. She held on to the window until the clothes were burned from her back, and she dropped to the pavement, a corpse so charred that she could scarcely be recognized. Three servant girls also jumped from the 3<sup>rd</sup> story back windows, to the icy pavement and were killed by the fall.

It makes me tremble even to write it. The Fire engines, ladders, &c. of the Ward were away at fires elsewhere in the City, and when they got there, the water was not sufficient. Sad! Sad!

"Mother" is still improving, can now walk across the room right well. Tacie & Bertha are with her, and they do attend to her so well, that she seems quite happy.

I rec'd. a letter from Wm. L. Cresson, my son-in-law, wanting me to buy his interest in his Father's mill, and house and lots, which he thinks is worth \$10,000. That I shall not buy unless it shall bring less than \$10,000. Follen will see about it.

February 23: Monday.

Today is observed as a National Holy-day [sic], because Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> could not be kept as one on account of its being Sunday.

I wrote on my medical papers quite late last night.

Thomas Hovenden came to see if I would be willing to go to the "Penn Club" in Phila. It is desirous to give him a reception. I would like to go, but it occurs at 8 P.M., and I should be kept out very late. And as I am pretty dull of hearing, I would not enjoy it very much, although in talking to one person, he could not detect my disability.

February 28: Saturday.

Last week, Wm. L. Cresson, our son-in-law, sent a note to me that since their failure, he had not been able to get any business except get lumber from Virginia, that he had two car loads in Phila, but no money to pay freight, &c., &c., that the boards were frozen solid, &c., &c. Yesterday I saw him at home, went there to see how the affair really was. I had been sick, part of the day & all night, with palpitation. He wanted me to buy his interest in his mother's Est., or rather in his father's mill, as well as his mother's house. They are to be sold by the Sheriff soon. I asked him particulars about

the lumber business, intending to let him have an hundred Dollars to pay freight, if it should seem proper.

I saw it was no business to talk about, only five Dollars profit on a whole car.

Finding I was not disposed to do it, he leaned back in his chair and said, when I said something about the lumber, "wont trouble myself about it, I wont trouble myself about any-thing. If nobody buys my right in the property for me, the Bank shall not get it. It shall go to Tacie and the children." Why said I, how can that be? "Why? I'll blow my brains out. Then if mother is still living, father's will says, the children shall have it, if any one of us die before she does."

I instantly rose from my seat and said, "Frannie we will go home." Kissing Tacie & the children, we passed out.

He doubtless thought I would be frightened and would do what he wanted, so as to prevent his tragedy. He did not understand me. I would not have raised a hand to stop him, if he had tried it then & there. I have done at least \$5000 more for him & his family than for any other of my children. Now he will bet no aid from me, save what Tacie may need.

Palp. struck me Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>, while going to Conshohocken with Follen, at 8 A.M. [It] lasted till 8 P.M. Then I went to bed. At 2 P.M. of that night, it came on and lasted a couple hours. I had taken ½ gr. sulph. Morph. at 9 A.M., but it did nothing for me all day. At 6 P.M., I took 30 drops Tct. Digitalis. In two hours it went off; don't know that it did any good.

Bertha and Frannie have been with their mother several days. Susan came this morning with me from Conshohocken, after I had taken Follen down.

Bertha & Frannie left here for home at 1:45 P.M. and a minute after they left Spring Mill station, Mrs. Anna Whitloch, a woman we have gotten to wait on my wife and the children's mother, came up in the Cars to Sp. Mill. Matt had her here at ½ past two P.M. Susan and Mary have just taken her to her room.

March 7: Saturday.

Our new house has proved thus far to suit admirably. (Wife) Mother has steadily improved, comes down to meals and stays an hour or so.

William L. Cresson bid for his wife Tacie, our daughter, \$525 for his interest in the Cotton Factory, left by his father. It is estimated to be worth \$8000, for his 1/4<sup>th</sup> part.

He also bid \$1,525 for his mother's home, on which there is already a mortgage of \$3000; there is also interest & taxes amounting to \$2.50 = a total of 1775 Dols. This was a Sheriff's sale and the money must all be paid in ten days. This they are now pestering me to pay. Follen and the girls are opposed. I don't like to bother "mother" about it, and so I am greatly worried, with mother's sickness and these things pressing on me, and my fears that Tacie and her children will suffer great poverty. I have had an unpleasant time. For most of the nights I have had but little sleep.

Tacie is now trying to sell the house to a sister of her nearest neighbor, Mrs. Harry Boyer. I hope she can do it before next Wednesday, when she will have to pay the Sheriff. His interest in the Mill I will secure for her by paying \$525.

If they can't get the money to pay for the homestead, she may lose the \$100 already paid.

Thomas Hovenden is to have a Reception at the "Penn Club" in Phila. tonight, just at this hour. I had a ticket, but cannot go, am not well enough.

March 13: Friday.

Death of James Richie and suffocation of his wife, my niece.

On Sunday night, the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, they went to bed as usual. In the morning of Monday, the servant woman who was accustomed to call them to breakfast, went to the door of their room, but hearing them snoring loudly, did not like to awaken them, so let them lie, and though uneasy about their not coming to breakfast, let them alone till 11 A.M. Then finding the door still fast, got some neighbors to break open the door. Then they were found, he almost dead, black & swelled in the face & head, utterly unconscious. She unconscious but not so thoroughly poisoned as he was. He lived until Tuesday. She has recovered consciousness, and has been informed of her husband's death. He was buried at 2 P.M. today at Laurel Hill.

It was quite private. Brother William and myself were invited, no others of my family. I was dressing myself to go to the funeral, when at 10:30 A.M., I was attacked by palpitation. This lasted me most uncomfortably until 2 ½ P.M. I had been lying on the lounge in the dining room, covered up, but was so uncomfortable that I got up and began to write a letter to Joseph; had scarcely written half a page when it passed off suddenly, and I was well. Since, I have paid a visit to Henry Hellings family to prescribe for his wife.

I paid \$525 for his [William Cresson's] one fourth interest in the Cotton Factory, the title of which is in the mother's [name] during her life, and from which she now receives a rent of about \$25.00 a week, I am told. It is estimated to be worth 35 or 40 thousand dollars, so my \$525 secures to Tacie one fourth part of that after the death of Mrs. Cresson who is now about 79 years of age.

Woman's Medical Commencement on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup>, in the "Academy of Music," in Phila. I had a special invitation to the Platform, as I always have, as they regard me as having done so much for them.

There was an immense audience. As this was the first time they have ventured to use this immense house; they had fears that the audience might appear small. They were delighted with the result.

After the ceremonies, I called to see Mr. Mahlon H. Dickinson, at the office of the "Board of Public Charities," of which he is President, and Dr. Thomas G. Morton of the Committee on Lunacy, and at 3 P.M. took the train for home.

March 15: Sunday.

Yesterday I got uneasy about having the deed conveying the interest in the Mill to Tacie. I thought it would have been better to have had it made to myself as I paid all the money, \$525, on Friday. So I rode to Norristown after taking Follen to the Cars, and got to the Court just in time to have the acknowledgement of the Sheriff's deed by the Court. The Sheriff said that his Lawyer said it could not be deeded to me and could not be postponed, that in half an hour it would be acknowledged. I wrote a brief not to Judge Boyer and had it handed to him, stating I wanted it postponed. Lawyer B. F. Chain, when the Sheriff presented it, asked for me that it be postponed till Monday. It was done.

I did not know what Follen would advise in the matter. Last night we had company till late. This morning I told him what I had done. He did not think well of it. Thinks it better be in Tacie's name, and I take a mortgage. So I lose \$5 by my work, as I will send Lawyer Chain that amount.

About March 10<sup>th</sup>, I rec'd. this letter from my nephew, Dr. Charles S. Dolley, who is in the great Marine Labratory [sic] of Naples, Italy. He is there as the Representative of the University of Pennsylvania, procuring Biological studies.

There are a few of the Norristown Trustees of the Hospital for Insane, who are so rude and abusive to Dr. Alice Bennett and Dr. Chase, that I fear the former will resign. I have written to her not to do it, and in her letter today, which I pin here, she promises not to do so for awhile.

A few days since, on account of the trouble caused by Mr. C. Hunsicker, and by his rude, vulgar attack on Dr. Bennett's management, I wrote to Mr. Addison May, one of the trustees residing in West Chester, in relation to the great capacity of Dr. Bennett for the work before her, the management of the now nearly or quite 600 insane women. His reply received today shows him truly in accord with me.

March 22: Sunday.

Evening. Yesterday I started after dinner to Norristown, taking with me granddaughter Frannie Yocom. Before I reached daughter Tacie's home, was attacked by palpitation. I went up to John J. Corson to see if he had rented my houses, &c., then to brother William, then home.

Thomas Hovenden spent the evening with mother, Mary, Frannie Yocom and myself. Follen away courting.

It was fearfully cold. At 9 P.M., the palp. left me. Slept pretty well. Have been to Meeting today, have read & written much. 10 P.M., going to bed.

March 24: Tuesday.

At the Woman's Medical Commencement, Dr. W. W. Keen, in his "Address," descanted on the advantages to mankind of vivisection. Last Saturday, Dr. O. J. Wistar in a brief note to the Editor, denied his facts (?). I wrote Dr. W. approving his act. The letter pinned here is the response.

The first number of my Essay on State Hospitals for the Insane in Pa. came out in the Daily Press, or rather the "Daily Herald and Free Press," today. This afternoon, I have nearly finished the second number.

March 30: Monday.

Went to the City with Dr. Shrawder to take him to Dr. Levis, to have him operate on him for Hemorrhoids. Dr. Levis had just returned yesterday from Florida. He said, that the first physician that he met there, said to him, "I have never read a better thing than Dr. Corson's reply to Dr. Horatio Wood. I must go to see Corson." Levis said he was in ecstasy about it.

Besides the Dr. Shrawder business, I had to go to the Register of Wills office to prove Samuel Grubbs will, which I had written for him seven years ago nearly.

Also went to see Dr. Leidy, and gave him a Specimen sent to me by Joseph, from a coal mine. It is sulphide of Iron Pyrites. It was almost exactly the size & shape of a big Clam.

Reached home at 2 ½ P.M.

April 3: Friday.

I have been very busy for the past week. Have sent one article to the Medical Reporter of Phila. and have just finished another to send in the morning; have also sent a long one to the Norristown Herald and Free Press on the Hospital for Insane; have also written an article entitled "Plagiarism." This I will pin here. It made the Plagiarist fearfully mad, and he wrote me a saucy letter, which I will also put here.

**Editor's note:** Neither the article, nor the letter are in the diary.

("Mother") wife is getting better slowly. I have been very busy in practice and in renting my houses, &c.

Yesterday at noon had an attack of palpitation; [it] went off at 2 P.M. I then rode till evening and did a good many things. [It] came on again before supper, and lasted me till 2 A.M. today. Have rec'd. and written many letters.

April 7: Tuesday.

Palp. struck me yesterday while in John J. Corson's office. At 9 A.M., walked to the Treasurer's office and got half years interest for \$1,400 County Bonds. Went to Bank to deposit \$282, then to Col. Bean's office to get my manuscripts on Women Physicians in our County, & then to Tacie's and home. The palp. lasted me till 9 P.M., then [I] went to bed. It came again at 10 P.[M.]; lasted till ¼ hour of 12, midnight. Was up at 5 ½ A.M. this morning.. Pretty hard to have a pulse going 160 beats per minute for so long. Got no sleep to speak of, & eat but little.

April 12: Sunday.

Noon. Rose at sunrise, before even the servants were stirring. Have all my life been accustomed to be up before, or at rising of the Sun. Went at once to washing and dressing. While putting on my clean clothes, was attacked by palpitation pretty scarely. It was then only six A.M. I finished dressing, with some difficulty; then before breakfast took 40 drops Tinct. Digitalis and ¼ grain of sulph. Morpheum; took some breakfast and went to bed, without undressing, save to take off my shoes.

At 10 o'clock, after lying on my left side until that time, never being able to lie on my right when having palpitation, I turned suddenly on to my back and in an instant, I was well, pulse at 66. I then staid in bed till 11 ½ o'clock. Follen had come to my bed to see if I thought it would do for him to go to Phila. for a few hours, that he had an engagement. I said certainly, I have had such attacks hundreds of times. At noon, Jawood Lukens & Susan his wife, our daughter, called on their way from Meeting to see us. Frannie Yocom is with us, having come up yesterday.

April 15: Wednesday.

Have been very well since Sunday, and been very busy, practicing some, attending to selling hay and straw, buying Canada potatoes to plant.



The farmers in this region have been in the habit, now several years, of going to Philad. and buying potatoes to plant, selling their own for eating. They say they cannot get a crop if they plant those raised here. So I sent Matt to Phila. yesterday to get eleven bushels. He gave 65 cts. per bushel.

Snowed for a couple of hours today. There has been ice every night for the past month, and the farmers did not move a plough till yesterday.

Took Follen to Consho. this morning on his way to town, as usual. Then went to the Frame houses on Elm St. to show the tinman how to fix the water pipes. Sold a load of hay to James Tracey, at 90 cts. per cut; visited Esq. Smith on business and two others; visited some patients before noon. Have done nothing this afternoon but look after my two men.

"Mother" enjoys herself reading, and by writing to Ada, Jos.' wife, and our daughters.

Daughter Susan and niece Helen Hovenden went at 6 A.M. to Baltimore, to meet Ida, Helen's sister, and then all go to the opening of an "Art" Salon. Will return [in] this evening's train, 5 P.M.

April 17: Friday.

Meeting at the College of Physicians on Thursday, Ap.16<sup>th</sup>. There were about 150 persons present, I think. A highly respectable looking body of men they were. It was a microscope exhibition of Bacilli, Rattlesnake venom (dry), and the pathological appearance of the organs of pigeons, Rabbits, &c., which had been opened 1 ½ hours after being killed by the poisonous "Cobra." Then from 9 P.M. till 10 P.[M.] [a] lecture, and exhibition on screen of blood corpuscles and other things.

I came away a few minutes before ten P.M. to take the train for home at 10:35 P.M.

I left home with mother, Bertha, & Frannie Day at 4:45 at Columbia Av. I got out and took the Street Car to see my niece Hannah Richie, who was so nearly killed by Gaz [sic]. Her husband was quite killed. They have been expecting her to die daily for some weeks. I do not see the danger. I think she will get well. From there, I went to the Barber, then to the College, then home.

April 18: Saturday.

Am receiving letters from a Lady, Mrs. M. C. Goodlett of Tennessee in relation to the Women Physicians in our hospital. She desires to have them in their new Hospital. I wrote to her & send my papers on the subject, as well as other papers. See her letters on the other side of this leaf.

April 19: Sunday.

Yesterday at 10 A.M., I had been doing all my business about Conshohocken, and had gotten home when palp. occurred. I, however, went to see a patient 2 miles away; came back and took dinner. From time to time till bed time (9 P.M.), I was sometimes on the Lounge, sometimes overseeing the two men at various jobs. Follen had left home in the morning to go to Phila. to his office, and in the evening to go to Atlantic City, with Jay & Susan, and his mother is down at Frannie Day's. So I was alone with Mary, and

little Georgie Yocom, and Bertha Day, our gd. children. At 10:30 at night, the palp. ceased. But I slept but little all night.

This morning I felt weak and "tottering," but was up early and soon all right. At 9 A.M., palpitation was renewed; took  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. sulph. Morph.. In half an hour it was gone. Then I went to bed. At 11  $\frac{1}{2}$  A.M. was called up, as brother William had called to dine with us. At 3 P.M. he left. We had had a very pleasant talk.

Much correspondence now.

April 23: Thursday.

Yesterday, Mary and Susan went, with Follen, to Philad., to do some shopping & to see their mother, but at the P.O., before they went, we found a letter from Frannie saying mother would like to come home. So, they went on, and I was to come with the carriage to Conshohocken to bring them home. I was there a few minutes after they got there, having come in an earlier train than the one agreed on.

I was shocked to see mother as they all sat under the long shed of the station. Her face was so red and she seemed so feeble, but I thought it due to the extreme heat of the afternoon, which between two & three P.M. was 90° in the shade. We all felt fearful that she might not reach home. But we got along quite well, and after an hour spent on the lounge, we took her to bed.

This morning her pulse was 88 and very strong. Ellwood came down and agreed with me that she should be bled. She wished it very much (Frannie staid with us last night). So I bled her 12 ounces, with relief to her mind as well as to her body.

Susan came this afternoon, but went back, and Frannie is still with us. Mother is easy, does not sleep so heavy, talks cheerfully; thinks, as we all do, that the loss of blood has done her great good. I wrote to Joseph of her this morning. Got a letter for mother from Joseph at noon.

April 25: Saturday.

9 P.M. I have had a busy day, away to Conshohocken before 8 A.M. with Follen, saw two patients, brought Susan, daughter, home with me, visited other patients. After dinner, went taking Susan along, to Norristown. Stopped a while with Tacie. Then went to see niece, Mrs. Mary Roberts; from there to the hospital for Insane. Came back to Norris[town] & then home. Had the men and boys to clean up the yard, &c., &c.

Our woman has been drinking for a day or two, secretly, but her changed manner and whisky breath betray her.

There are fearful threatenings of War, immediate War, between Russia & England. Every day the telegraphic news seems to increase the probabilities. The excitement throughout Europe is great.

Mother is greatly better, has been in the parlor all evening, reading. She thinks the bleeding was indispensable to her getting well.

I have written to Joseph every morning for the past three days.

Dr. Fury, an Irish Catholic Doctor, a young, ignorant but conceited character, not a member of our Medical Society, delivered a lecture, one half of which was taken from Mr. Armit's<sup>xxviii</sup> "address," The above is my reply. No one but the Editor of the Daily Times and myself knew me as the writer. Fury wrote me charging me with it. But as he had no proof, it was left there. I made no reply.

April 26: Sunday.

Mrs. M. C. Goodlet [sic] of Nashville , Tennessee is striving to have women physicians for the women Insane in the hospitals of that State, indeed of the Whole South. See her annexed letter, the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> I have rec'd. from her and some of which are a few pages back. I send her all documents which I think may be useful as aids.

Spent the day reading & writing. Wife [is] pretty comfortable, enjoying herself down stairs. At 6 P.M. [I] was struck by palpitation.

April 27: Monday.

The palp. cont'd. all night. I slept not a wink till 4 this morning, and at 5 got up and dressed myself. After breakfast, I went with Follen to Conshohocken, did some business there, and met my nephew, Charles Adamson, who was at the P.O. waiting for me. He got into the carriage along side of me, and we had quite a long pleasant talk, during which the palp. went off. Since then I have attended to business at home, directing "the men."

April 30: Thursday.

4½ P.M. I had ridden during the forenoon, got home at 11 ½ A.M. At 12 (noon), Wm. came, had dinner and staid till 2 ½ P.M. Had a pleasant time. Then I laid on the lounge for an hour, then walked about the lawn & yard, &c., until it came on.

May 2: Saturday.

[Was] pretty well since Thursday, until 4 ½ P.M. today. Then was struck with palp., which lasted me till 8 P.[M.] Had taken 60 drops Tinct. Digitalis and nothing else. It passed away, I think on account of my holding my breath and straining as a person does when very costive and at stool.

("Mother") wife seems quite poorly; the abnormal sound of the heart, has increased in loudness, and is heard clear up to the left clavicle.

I am invited to a reception at the house of Dr. Benjamin Lee of 315 S. 15<sup>th</sup> St. tonight from 8 to 11 to meet Dr. Fordyce Barker of New York, but mother seems so poorly, although "about house," that I shall not go. This morning I wrote to Dr. Alfred Stillé, Professor for many years, of Practice of Medicine, in University of Penna., to come see her with me.

May 5: Tuesday.

I wrote to our son Joseph this morning that I thought he had better come and see his mother, that I am convinced she will not likely be any better, that her heart is in a condition that never improves in persons of advanced age, and that the coming warm weather will oppress her greatly. Every thing looks so beautiful now in our green yards, and in all the orchard, that I feel sad "mother" can't enjoy the scene. How sad that when we appreciate the beauties of Nature, even better than when young, that infirmities and the nearness of Death take away our capacity to enjoy the things we have prepared for our enjoyment in old age. Mother is knocking. She wants Annie, our woman's daughter, [a] 3 years old girl." Our Mary, who is generally with her mother, has taken Tacie to the train and will bring Follen home.

May 10: Sunday.

Joseph, our son, has arrived, got into Philad. from Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, at 5:15 this morning. Mother was greatly affected in coming into the parlor, prepared to take a short ride with me as an airing, and unexpectedly meeting him. But after a few minutes talk he urged us to take our ride. So we went out in the little phaeton, with the little mare, Mary's horse & equipage, to see Helen Hovenden and her husband. We saw Helen a few minutes without getting out of the carriage

10 A.M. They are all in the parlor now, mother, Susan, Mary, Follen, Jawood and Joseph. I was with them but was attacked by palpitation. I at once came here, into the dining room, and sitting on the soft, springy lounge, held my breath and strained, "bore down," as folks say, most fiercely; it went off at once. This makes the third time that I have put it away within ten days. If I can always rid myself of it so easily, how glad I shall be. It is a process of cure obtained or discovered by accident.

This is a beautiful day, and how green and beautiful is our lawn!! Never did I see it so clean, so green, and so beautiful before. Three acres of lawn, filled with fruit and ornamental trees. It is beautiful to look upon.

Joseph & myself went down to Spring Mill to see John Neal, whom I wanted him to see & to examine his heart, as it has the exact sound that we hear in the heart of mother's, a sound arising from the disease of Aortic valves. Just before we started, as we stood at the office while the carriage was being brought to us, I was taken with pal[pitation] of heart, but I said not a word about it. I have it still. Mother is down stairs now, and as she is nicely dressed and has had a nap, she looks quite bright, which makes Joseph feel better. She looked weak and despondent when he first met her.

May 15: Friday.

Richard Day came up with Follen to see Mother. They are all in the parlor now talking, and apparently enjoying themselves.

Yesterday evening, Joseph & Follen were at Jenkintown, to tea with Mrs. Goforth. Robert, Becky, and Miss Deggs [sic], to whom Follen seems to be paying rather loving attention, were also there.

"Mother" seems cheered a little and more assured that there is no immediate danger in her case, by Joseph's manner and his confident assurance that she will do well. Joseph & I were up to see Tacie this afternoon, and do some business in Norristown. I am doing no "practice" now to speak of, and if wife were only well and enjoying herself, I would be very comfortable.

A man came to me two days ago to tell me of a farmer starving his Cattle, 16 in number. Joseph & self went to Lower Merion to see them, and I notified the owner of the farm, a rich Philadelphian, of their condition, also notified the Secretary of the S.P.C. Animals. Rec'd. a letter today from owner's agent that he would see to them; also one from S.P.C. Animals, thanking me for reporting the cases.

May 17: Sunday.

I have pinned this letter of my gd. son Thomas Yocom here, thinking he may in half a century find it here and see how he wrote when 4 yrs. old.

Joseph & his mother & Mary rode out after dinner to "Cousin Emily's," and had a pleasant "Call."

I have been engaged all day in reading, writing, &c.

“Mother” seems pretty cheerful today, but I fear will be very sorry should Joseph leave here tomorrow, as he likely will.

May 19: Tuesday.

Joseph left for home this morning at 7 when Follen left for the City. His mother was better than when he came, and she bore parting with him very bravely. He is so kind and so attentive that his visit was a real comfort to her and to us all.

Friday, 9 P.M., John has sold 5 lots on Chain St. for me, for \$1000, and two weeks or more ago a lot on DeKalb (far out) \$2150.

Rec'd. an invitation from Dr. Levis of Philad., to participate in a discussion on Cholera, at the College of Physicians, on Monday evening next.

“Mother” (wife) is getting better daily, rides out nearly every day. Frannie being here on a visit today, we did not go [out].

May 28: Thursday.

Did not go [to] the College of Physicians discussion, though invited by the Secretary and twice pressed to do so by Dr. Levis, the Surgeon, because of my dullness of hearing. But little new has occurred since I last wrote on the 19<sup>th</sup>, but I have been very busy in having all my houses at Norristown, Bridgeport, Conshohocken & at home fixed up, my farming attended to properly, &c. My two men and two women do things up very well. We have 5 horses and 7 cattle.

Have had no palpitation for almost three weeks. Am not working hard in my profession, neither write nor practice much. Wife is poorly; oversees things in the house, and I take her carriage riding almost every day, but her heart is greatly disabled and keeps her weak. We all feel sad about it. All the girls come often to see her and comfort her.

Today and yesterday, the Medical Society of Penna. has been in session at Scranton, Pa. Owing to wife's illness, I have been unable to go, but I have written many letters to friends, asking them to have Dr. E. A. Wood, my Pittsburgh friend, made President. I hope to effect it.

May 29: Friday.

Dr. E. M. Corson, my nephew, returned from the State Medical Meeting at Scranton today, and came here this afternoon to let me know that my efforts to have my friend Dr. E. A. Wood of Pittsburgh made president were successful. I have read it in the Press in the morning.

Well! I am glad of it. Dr. Smith [Albert H. Smith of Philadelphia] is one of the original thinkers in the profession.

June 1: Monday.

Yesterday, I quietly read until 10 ½ A.M. when I was attacked by palpitation. It lasted me till 5 ½ P.M., and very uncomfortable it made me.

“Mother” was pretty well yesterday & slept pretty well last night. Brother William spent the evening with mother, Mary & myself. [Spoke] very pleasantly to us.

June 8: Monday.

Last Sunday week, B. F. Price, son of my old friend Isaac Price, who lived for almost half a century alongside of my brother-in-law Charles Adamson, and was very intimate with my sister Mary Adamson, came to see me about failing health. His father had consulted me months before, fearing he would become insane, and I had given him my Aperient Solution, which soon brought him out of his despondency, and for which he sent me \$10.00 recently, though I made no charge of it. He came to see me, I say two weeks ago. Thursday last, I rec'd. the letter posted here. It shows he is not far from crazy now.

Rec'd. June 3, letter from Dr. Wood of Pittsburgh. Thinks I made him President of the State Medical Society. Certainly he got it through my efforts. He is so pleased that I am quite gratified myself.

Practiced some this morning, then went to Hicksite Meeting. There met Joseph Mather, whom I had not seen for many years. Invited him to dinner, but a friend who was with him had engaged to go to Jeremiah Comforts.

About 4 P.M., Major P. R. Freas, former Editor of Germantown Telegraph, with Mr. Raymond, present Editor, called to see me. An hour before, I had taken wife down to our son-in-law Jawood Lukens, merely for a ride, and a few minutes after we got there at 3 P.M., I was struck with palpitation. It lasted until now, 8 ½ P.M.

Sunday, 9 P.M., read a good deal in the "Life of James and Lucretia Mott," by their granddaughter, Miss Davis. A beautiful history of beautiful lives. An exposition of the religion which commends itself to my attention, because of its value to any possessor, or believer, who will try to live out the teachings & principles of it.

Wife is pretty well today. Daughter Susan has been with her. It comforts her so greatly to have her, that I send down the carriage for her whenever she desires it.

Rec'd. this letter from my good friend Dr. R. L. Sibbett [sic] of Carlisle a few days ago. I am sorry for his broken health, the result, I have no doubt, of that false treatment, without vs [venesection, bloodletting].

June 14: Sunday.

Palp. returned on June 9<sup>th</sup> & lasted 2 hours. [Was] very well till Thursday, when it occurred before I rose in the morning. I got up, and after breakfast went with Follen to Conshohocken. It went off before I got home, but returned for a short time after dinner. While writing a letter to John S. Williams, it went off. It is strange how greatly I am relieved when I become fairly engaged in writing. I almost forget that it is on me, and often before I am aware of it, it has gone.

June 15: Monday.

I went to Phila. to buy clothes, got a suit at Wannamaker's, \$20, Black Serze. Very hot. Practiced some after I came home.

June 19: Friday.

Evening. Have had no palp. since Wednesday week and have been very well. Have sent a Medical paper to the "Med. & Surg. Reporter" for publication. Have been very busy at many things.

(Mother) wife has gotten along pretty well, but the bruit of the heart is no better. She moves about the house, also crochets a good deal. But she is often very miserable.

General Grant has gone from New York City to Mr. Drexel's Cottage at Mt. McGregor, 12 miles above Saratoga, and wretched he is, cannot speak audibly, only in a faint whisper, and his neck is much swelled on the diseased side.

June 20: Saturday.

It was only yesterday I said I had had no palp. for 10 days. Today, while standing quite still talking to a friend in Conshohocken where I had taken Follen at 8 A.M. to go to Atlantic City, I was struck with it. I cont'd. going, though it was about as much as I could do to walk, so that no one would see what ailed me, and kept on till 11 ½ A.M., then laid myself on the lounge, and it kept battering away. While it cont'd., I did a good deal of writing, preparing an article for the Herald & Free Press of Norristown on the Hospitals for Insane in Pa.

When in Missouri to see Joseph & family last Fall, I visited their hospital just beyond St. Louis, the City Hospital for Insane. In my diary of 1884 will be found an account of our interview with the physician of the Institution, and his opposition to women physicians, &c., &c. Afterwards, [received a letter from] General Stephenson, Health Commissioner of St. Louis and manager of the Hospital for the Insane. Letter on preceding page.

**Editor's note:** No such letter is in the diary (Journal, No. 8), nor is there a copy of the report sent by Mrs. Goodlett.

After our visit to the Hospital, as noticed on preceding page, Gen'l. S.'s wife and daughter were next day on a visit to Jos.'s house, and I had a talk with them about our having a woman physician for the female Insane. And when I returned home, I sent them a copy of my report to the State Society. Shortly after that, I rec'd. this letter from Genl. Stephenson, and two weeks since, I was informed by Joseph that Genl. S. had put a female physician in charge of the female Insane.

Some weeks ago I rec'd. a letter from Mrs. M. C. Goodlett of Nashville, Tenn., asking for information in relation to women doctors for women Insane, as we have them in our hospitals. She is the wife of a Lawyer in the City. I sent to her my Report to the State Society, the first report on that subject, indeed, I may say, the first thoughts ever given to the public on that subject. She is very earnest, desires to prepare voters on the subject, so that they may elect Representatives who will pass a law for the purpose.

She has had 1000, perhaps more, copies published, for distribution, with a preface of her own. I have received 18 from her, one of which I pin here.

Since receiving the above, I have written and sent to her copies of all that is published in the Transactions of our State Society, which I did to get the law passed by our Legislators. Have also sent her other printed matter. I pin here her copy and Miss Bennett's Address before the Medico-legal Soc. of New York. The good work goes on.

June 28: Sunday.

The palp. of yesterday week lasted me 17 hours, and in about 10 hours more, it

came on again on Sunday, and lasted 7 hours. Since that time, I have been right well, and am so now, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>, 10 A.M.

Yesterday we began Harvest.

Death by Suicide of young Robert Stinson about one week ago. [He] was brought home at 6 P.M. last Sunday from West Stockbridge, Massachusetts. It is a sad affair. [He] was several years engaged to a Miss Edwards there; wished to be released; sent a letter, or a girl at Oswego sent a letter, that he was drowned in the Lake, adding a Post-Script, that it was a Joke. When Miss Edwards read the forepart, she fainted, and there was a distressing time. Her father, after a while, read the letter and the Post-Script. Then a letter was sent to him to come on and explain. He came, told how it was gotten up, no harm intended, &c., &c. An arrangement was then made that they would marry in September. The father of Robert objected, sent another son on to have it put off until he should graduate. Then came more difficulties, and he went to a store, bought a revolver, left the place, went a mile away in the woods and shot himself. Was not found till next day.

I have just written a letter to his Aunt, Dr. Mary H. Stinson, telling of our Sympathy with the family & herself.

The two suicides of young Whipple and young Stinson alarm me. There is a fearful epidemic of suicides. It arises, I think, from the habit of carrying pistols, and from Example now.

(Mother) wife is but little improved. She is up nearly all day and goes about the house directing affairs, but she is not strong. She is too evidently getting thinner, and yet, some days, she seems the same stirring woman, almost, of old.

Had a letter from Joseph two days ago, and photos of the two children. The latter make good pictures. Mary is about 8 years old and Edward 20 months or thereabouts. They were taken in St. Louis, as they were going to Omaha, on their way with their mother to her old home, Fort Bridger, Wyoming Territory. Joseph went with them to Omaha. Saw them in the "Sleepers," and then returned. He has had two letters from Ada, one while she was on the road, and one after her arrival at her Mother's.

June 29: Monday.

I wrote and read a good deal in the forenoon yesterday. After dinner, I went to Chestnut Hill to see an imbecile man, whose father, Charles Streeper, quite a rich man, was said a year ago, to treat [him] badly. He was brought before Judge Boyer. Then a compromise effected, he was allowed to take his son (33 years old) home, on condition of a promise to take good care of him and to allow me to visit him to see his condition whenever I chose to do so. While there talking to the father, I was attacked by palpitation. It was with me while I came home. I then finished up the day-time writing letters to Frannie, Dr. Morton, Dr. Mary H. Stinson, Dr. Mays, and son Joseph. I feel the unpleasantness of the palp. much less when my mind is closely engaged. Went to bed at 9 o'clock. At midnight, the rapid pulsation ceased, but I could not sleep. This morning at 6, wrote a letter to daughter Bertha. Was busy this A.M., looking for a man to help make hay. Got in one load.

July 5: Sunday.

Have been well since last writing, but well engaged with a moderate practice and



our hay harvest. Took in two fields, about 13 acres, last week. It is very dry. The hay crop [is] quite light. Mother (wife) seems to gain a little, sleeps better, eats pretty well, goes about the house superintending, crochets a good deal, and reads not a little. Follen is away at his office every day, reaches home at six o'clock, or thereabouts. Mary aids and cares for her mother very well indeed. She is a faithful and efficient nurse, and altogether a very good girl.

I wrote and rec'd. many letters last week. I am sending off some documents to friends today, or prepare to send them tomorrow. I want to get the people of other States to get women physicians for their insane females.

Was at the Hicksite Meeting this forenoon. This P.M., it is now nearly 4 o'clock, I have been reading medical works, Journal, and taking careful notes. My love of information, I might say my greed for it, is great as ever before, but to have many patients would be a trial, which I will not bear.

July 10: Friday.

Sunset. Follen left home at the usual time this morning, expecting after work in his office to go to Atlantic City to stay till Monday next.

Dr. Leedom spoke to me today to see patients for him tomorrow, as he will be today to see his brother Joseph at Cape May. Joseph or his rich wife has a cottage there.

I have been very well and busy every day, since I had palp.

(Mother) wife is poorly, quite so in the mornings, but she moves about, managing or superintending things, nearly all day.

Wonderfully dry, fine hay & harvest weather. We have all our hay in the mow. Began the wheat-harvest today. I am every day reading pamphlets, original essays by medical men sent to me for perusal and criticism. I reply to the author of every one of them, and criticize them sharply sometimes, which brings rejoinder and finally quite a correspondence.

July 17: Friday.

It is now 2 P.M. and the thermometer, in the shade under the piazza, on South side of house, 98° F.

I went at 7 ½ A.M. with Follen to Conshohocken for my letters, then to Norristown to Bank, where I deposited \$62.00; then to Coach Makers to pay him a bill and get more work done; then to Tacie's, where I got Frannie (my daughter) and her son Charlie Day and brot them home with me, as "mother" wished to see Frannie.

The men are cutting and binding our Oats on the Conshohocken lot today. A man wishes to rent it for gardening purposes, or buy it. We think the time has not come for selling. I only gave \$1110, but we think the 12 ½ acres should be worth several thousands.

Hosts of people "out of Town" now, "by the Sea." "on the mountains," "at the Springs," &c., &c. We are content at home. Wife is unable to go, and I do not wish to go.

Never before have I known the Country so parched here, at this season of the year. The hay and grain crops have been unusually light, and the pasture is "nix," as the Dutchman would say, Nil as the scholar would declare. Thermometer at back of office at 2:30 P.[M.], 99° Fahr.

Have just read all the proceedings of the annual meeting of the Alumni Assoc. of University of Penna., including Dr. Eugene Grissom's Address.

July 26: Sunday.

Morning, 6 o'clock. The weather has been very hot for a week past. This has been a remarkable, dry, and hot Summer. There has been but one rainy day since about the first of May, and on that day, it was but a light rain. There has not been one wet day, not even for an hour, since the hay-making and harvest began. I have never seen so dry a time, at this time, June and July, in all my life.

The heat too has been excessive during the past week and on occasional days before, the F. Therm. has been 77° at sunrise and at noon, or by two o'clock P.M. 103° in the shade. Add to these that in all our valley here, where we depend on Cisterns, they have been dry for some time, very many of them, and the situation is very trying. The pasture is burned up.

I have done but little practice the past week, but have been very busy overseeing the various needed matters of the farm, tenant houses, &c., &c.

Yesterday at about one P.M., after having been 27 days without palpitation, it attacked me again. And then for five hours, I had a most uncomfortable time. With temp. at 103° F. and the air as still as death, while my heart cracked away 150 to 170 per minute, my discomfort was unusually great.

Follen got home from Phila. at six o'clock, and Jawood and Susan came after tea. Although it left me at six P.M., I did not come down stairs at all. This morning I am pretty well.

Expect to go to Hicksite Meeting to hear Saml. Ash preach; heard him for the first time last First-Day. Very good speaker.

July 30: Thursday.

He [General Grant] died from Cancer of the back part of the mouth. For months he had not passed much time in bed, sitting day and night, when not walking or riding, in an easy chair, but just before he died, he requested to be placed in bed. It was done, and he soon passed peacefully and without apparent suffering, from life to death.

August 1: Saturday.

This morning, just before starting for Conshohocken as usual in the morning, I was attacked by Mr. Palpitation. But taking the boy "Lenny" with me, I went; visited a patient at Sp. Mill; then to P.O. Had a talk with and examination of the heart by Dr. McKinsy [sic], my former pupil, the pulsations then reaching 180; then to the hardware store of Wm. Wright, where I bought a number of things; then home just before dinner. Took some dinner, laid me down, and in a few minutes, it went off. I should have said that I had a pleasant visit from Dr. Highley before going to dinner.

Follen, his sister Mary, and their Cousin Ida Corson went to Atlantic City yesterday morning and returned home just before 9 P.M. [They] had a pleasant visit.

Wife, mother, Mrs. Corson, take what name pleases most, was very poorly yesterday-morn, while I had gone down with them to Sp. Mill and then brot daughter Frannie from Consho. to stay with her while Mary was away. She felt poorly soon after we left and

soon became so nervous, she was afraid she would not live to see us come back. She fretted and cried much after we got back to her. She can't bear to be left alone.

Great preparations for the funeral of Genl. Grant. Papers filled with articles referring to the "Great Soldier." His funeral will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of 8<sup>th</sup> mo. The number of people, constituting military and other organizations, already reported to be present, cannot be accommodated with room in the 9 miles, between Castle Garden, or City Hall, and the Grave.

August 2: Sunday.

Evening. Visit from my nephew Thomas Adamson, American Consul at Panama, Central America. We expected him yesterday, as he had an arrangement to come with Follen, but business called him to New York. He arrived, from New York, at Broad St. Depot, Penna. R. R. at 5:20 P.M., took [the] 5:30, came to Conshohocken to see his Cousin Sara Jones, spent an hour or so, then called on daughter Susan & Jawood. [He] left at 9 P.[M.] again for Phila.

This morning came by rail to Emily Corson's. At 3 P.M. George, her son, brot him to see us, staid an hour, then went to see Helen & Ida, and left in an evening train for Phila.

He is an interesting man, has been Consul at various places for more than 20 years, is now on leave of absence, but will go back in a few days to Panama. He gave me a brief but lucid account of the Revolution which occurred there last Spring, and the burning of the town of Aspinwall, sometimes called Colon. It was a disastrous affair. His management of it was fortunate for our Country, or rather for our "Administration." The Central American Republic subdued the Rebels, or Revolutionists, and all is quiet now.

We had a splendid rain last evening, and this P.M. we have had a good quiet rain, so the "dry spell" of nearly 3 months has come to an end.

This letter from Dr. Cotton explains itself. It is thanks to me for my rebuke of Prof. H. C. Wood's lecture recommending alcohol for old people.

August 8: Saturday.

Ever since the death, as announced above, preparations have been made on a large scale for the funeral. General Hancock, of our County, having the arrangements.

No funeral has ever equaled it for the numbers who have looked upon the corpse. He, after being embalmed, was not buried until today, Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup>, in Riverside Park, New York. I will, if convenient to get a Newspaper account of it tomorrow, paste it in here.

August 10: Monday.

The account in Philadelphia Ledger is very full, too full to put in here. So I have put it in the desk, marked "Genl. Grant's Funeral."

Death and Funeral of Mrs. Jeannie Read, wife of Doctor Lewis Wernwag Read. Mrs. Read was very well, made several calls on friends on the evening of Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1885. She was in pleasant mood. After going to bed, she was troubled with cough a good deal, but at 4 o'clock on the next morning, Wednesday, she was attacked with pain in the head, a neuralgia, attacks of which she has had for years. For this her

husband gave her a hypodermic injection of sulphate of morphia  $\frac{1}{2}$  a grain, her usual dose. He was then "called out;" on returning, after a few hours, and inquiring after her, he was told she was sleeping. He went out again and did not return till noon, then went up to see her and found her dying. He sent for brother William, who went at once; it was but about 100 yards and found her just breathing her last.

In the evening of that day, I took my daughter Frannie to Norristown. She had come from there where she was boarding to see her mother, and then learned of her death, and also that no invitations would be issued for the funeral. This was unpleasant to me. Her death had been sent to Phila. papers as "suddenly and burial at 4 P.M. on Saturday," nothing more. I objected to it on the ground that people would suspect suicide, for that is the way it is announced in such cases. After some resistancy, it was agreed to give the usual notice, but only in the Norristown papers.

It was a solemn funeral, a great number of people being present. Tacie, her daughter Carrie, Franny Day, my daughter and Ida Corson, went with me. Follen came up from Phila. Buried August 8<sup>th</sup> at 4 P.M.

Visited Laurel Hill. I met Follen at Wissahickon Station R. R. Road today at 10 before 2 P.M., and together we went to Laurel Hill to see our lot and arrange to have the large Fir tree taken out of it. The lot looked very neat.

I suggested to daughter Susan today the propriety of having a broad marble upright slab planted in the lot next her grand-mother's grave, with the name of her grandfather and his sister Susan and his brother George's names on it, telling who they were and that they were buried in the now unused grave yard of Orthodox Friends at Penllyn.

August 16: Sunday.

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup>, I went by special invitation to Hatboro to the meeting of the adjunct "Medical Society of Montgomery County." I may explain that there can be only our County Society entitled to send delegates to the State Society, and therefore as many of the doctors live far away from Norristown, it was deemed proper to have adjunct Societies, the members of which could meet in their neighborhoods, but in order that they can be delegates to the State Society, must be members also of the County Society. I had a special invitation. So as I drove over to Hatboro, went to Dr. Evans, who is our Congressman, and after spending a half hour with himself and family, went to Dr. Carroll's, only a few doors away, where I met nine very decent gentlemen and one lady doctor, Miss Mary Hallowell, a graduate of Swarthmore College, and also of the Philad. Woman's Med. College. We had an interesting meeting, and afterwards an excellent tea furnished us by Dr. C. and wife. I reached home at 9 P.M., not at all fatigued.

August 18: Tuesday.

Yesterday I visited the Hospital for the Insane at Norristown. Dr. Bennett, the Female Chief, who has entire medical and other charge of nearly 700 patients, was not at home, having gone on her summer vacation, but I saw my niece Hannah Corson, who is the Supervisor. I also visited Dr. Chase, who has about 700 male patients.

Today, this morning I should say, I expected to go to Quakertown, Bucks Co., to the meeting of the Lehigh Valley Medical Association, and rose early for that purpose,

but wife did not feel that she could let me be away so long. She felt very poorly. So I gave it up and went to see a patient, then to Conshohocken with Follen, and while sitting in the carriage there, I was attacked with palpitation; but still I went on to Norristown, did some business, brought Tacie, my daughter, along home with me. I have just taken dinner. The Palp. is still on me. Rec'd. a long letter from Dr. Cotton in reply to one of mine, which I now pin here. Read a good deal after dinner; at 6 P.M. palp. left.

**Editor's note:** This letter and others previously mentioned are not in the diary.

August 21: Friday.

Last night at 11, while in bed, I awoke with palp., but it went off at once when I suddenly sprang up. This morning I rose before sunrise and walked around, directing my two men, then went into the office, and at 6 A.M. was attacked by palp. When called to breakfast at 7, I said nothing of my condition, but could scarcely eat anything. After breakfast, I went with Follen, daughter Bertha and her son Hiram to Consho. As we were going along, it went off. I have read a good deal and have had a consultation with Dr. Leedom in Mr. D. O. Hitner's case.

We churned 27  $\frac{3}{4}$  pounds butter today. We get at home 35 cts. per pound. "Mother", wife seems more comfortable the past two days.

August 22: Saturday

Wrote to Dr. Cotton of Meadville, Pa.; to Hannah Bacon, Germantown; Prof. Pancoast, Phila., and Adele Biddle, Phila.

August 29: Saturday.

Since Saturday a week ago, I have been having more to do than usual in "Practice." Have had several consultations with Dr. Leedom in D. O. Hitner's case, and three in case of Typhoid Fever, in Mrs. Wm. A. Cresson of Conshohocken; had other interesting cases. Have had letters from Joseph, and from the "girls."

Wife has been somewhat better. The murders and suicides come to us fresh every morning and evening. Nothing like it was ever known before in this country, and yet, it is said, we only have about 1600 suicides in a year, while all Europe has more than 23,000.

County tax paid two days ago, amounted to \$114.00

While at dinner today, just Mary & myself, her mother had been quite poorly in the forenoon, had had a distressing feeling in her breast in the heart region, and had a light dinner in her room, hoping it would relieve her unpleasant sensation. So, as I was about to say, I was struck by the palp. while eating, but as it in no way affects my appetite, I finished a good plain meal, and since then have lain awhile in bed.

Have been to the field to direct the men; have read papers; put up medicines, &c., &c. It is now 5 o'clock, and the heart cracks away at 160 times per minute.

Nine P.M. Palpitation still going on. I went to bed 9 P.[M.]; at 10 P.[M.], I turned out of bed thinking I would rather sit up a while. In an instant, it disappeared.

August 30: Sunday.

Visited Mrs. Cresson in consultation with Dr. Beaver in the forenoon. Wrote [a]

long letter to Ada in the evening. She is at Fort Bridger, Wyoming Ty.

August 31: Monday.

Wrote [a] long letter to Joseph early this morning. Visited in consultation with Dr. Beaver at 9 A.M. other patients till noon. Consult with Dr. Leedom in D. O. Hitner's case at 4 P.M.

Follen returned from Baltimore at 5 P.M.

September 1: Tuesday.

[Was] very well all day. Consultation with Dr. Beaver; other business.

September 3: Wednesday.

Consultation in D. O. Hitner's case, with Dr. Leedom. Saw several other patients. Palp. struck me while riding at 3 P.M. I cont'd. to go till six P.M. Before supper at 6, took 25 drops Tinct. Digitalis, then ate a hearty supper of boiled corn, beef steak, tea, &c.

Follen rode over to Hatboro, to see Judge Yerkes this afternoon; has just returned at 7 P.M. Palp. went off at 9 P.M.

September 4: Friday.

Two consultations since Wednesday. Wrote several letters; rec'd. many too. Man suddenly killed yesterday, close by.

September 6: Sunday.

Robert & Rebecca came up this morning and spent the day. I have just returned from taking them down to Jawood Lukens.

September 11: Friday.

Death of "Lizetta" Corson (as we always called her). We rec'd. invitations to the funeral which was to take place today, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, and brother Wm., my niece Ida Corson, and myself concluded to take a carriage and drive to the burying ground, but this morning it was rainy, or had rained in the night, and I was not able on wife's account to go. So the trip was given up. I will write to her brother Richard today. Her sister Jane has been several years in the Frankford Asylum, a most shameful imprisonment. The poor woman is only melancholy from bad usage of her husband, as I truly believe.

September 12: Saturday.

Jawood Lukens & our daughter Susan, his wife, have gone on a trip to Halifax, where an Association of "Iron Manufacturers" are to meet. They expect to be away about ten days. I suppose he has a desire to perform his part of the duties pertaining to members, as he belongs.

September 13: Sunday.

I went to Phila. yesterday to see some doctors; visited Dr. Morton, Dr. Addinell Hewson, and Dr. James Tyson. Had consultations with them in relation to Heart disease and the treatment of certain forms of it by digitalis.

Practiced quite a good deal in the afternoon.

September 14: Monday.

Have just rec'd. a letter from a boy of Bellair, Ohio, in which he asks me to write, on three blank cards, my name and, if convenient, to send him the autographs of several well known abolitionists. I have complied with his request so far as to write on the cards for himself and two friends, and promise him more.

Have practiced a good deal this week and given much time to overseeing the farming. Have had letters from Joseph and Ada and many others. Wife has been no better than before, but has been "about-house" seeing that all was working right.

September 19: Saturday.

It is 17 days since I had palpitation. Today while in perfect health and enjoying the ride in my carriage, I was suddenly struck with palp. at 11 A.M. I came home, ate dinner & then lay on the sofa an hour. Got up suddenly & walked up stairs, which made my head reel a little; then [I] felt a sudden jerk under the breast bone and in an instant was well. It always goes off in that way.

Several ladies [are] here to see Mother, Mrs. Emily Corson, widow of Elias Hicks Corson, and her daughter-in-law Elizabeth, wife of George; also Martha Corson, widow of Dr. Joseph, brother of Elias H. and son of brother Alan W. Corson; also my gd.daughter, Carrie Cresson, and Mariam Hartranft, daughter of Gov. John F. Hartranft, her friend.

September 24: Thursday.

Two ladies and two gentlemen [were] here from a boarding house beyond Schuylkill, to see my minerals last Sunday.

Have done but little practice this week, but have been overseeing our grain sowing and yesterday was at the, our Medical Society at Norristown.

At 3 ½ P.M. today, while at the Conshohocken lot overseeing the drilling of rye, and having timothy seed and fertilizer dropped at the same time, [and] while sitting comfortably in my carriage, was attacked by palpitation. It is still on me. I came home and have done a good deal of reading and written two long letters since, one to Dr. Cotton of Meadville, one to Dr. Mays of 1716 Chestnut St., Phila. It is now 8 P.M.

September 25: Friday.

My palp. continued from 3 ½ P.M. yesterday until 9 A.M. today, 17 ½ hours. All night I was awake, but nearly all the time in bed on my left side. Took, when I went to bed, 3/8 gr. of sulph. Morph. Rose early, 6 A.M. After breakfast went with Follen to Conshohocken, from there I went to Spring Mill R. R. station to meet Frannie. While waiting for her, sitting in the carriage reading the morning paper, just as the train hove in sight, 10 minutes before 9 A.M., the palp. suddenly left me.

October 4: Sunday.

After my palp. went off last Friday week, I had it two or three hours a few days ago, and today at 2 P.M., while riding, I was struck again, and I have it now. Last week, about Thursday, I rec'd. a letter from Dr. Alice Bennett, enclosing one to her from Susan

B. Anthony. Dr. Bennett wishes me to answer questions, propounded two, [for] Miss Anthony, on the subject of women doctors in hospitals for insane women, viz., is Miss Bennett, M.D. the only woman known, at the head of a hospital for insane women? 2<sup>nd</sup>, when did the law pass qualifying Trustees to appoint women doctors? &c. I answered her and in addition copied more than a dozen pages of fools cap, of my ms., concerning women doctors, and their efficient advocacy by the Montgomery Co. Med. Soc., and my efforts to have them recognized by the profession; as also my successful efforts to get the law passed to enable Trustees of hospitals for insane women to appoint women doctors to have the entire medical charge of them.

I also read a great deal, and for hours read French, for improvement in the reading of the language. I read a great deal this forenoon too. It is likely, I sat too long and read too much during the past week and today and thus rendered myself more liable than formerly to attacks.

Bertha and Hiram & Dorothea, came up this morning. Have just left for home. "Mother" went down with them.

October 6: Tuesday.

7 A.M. During the past 41 hours, I have suffered with palpitation, my heart beating 160 times per minute when quiet, 180 or more when walking about. It has just left me. As I had at the same time, or rather at the time I was attacked, a great diarrhoea, and which despite strong doses of opium & astringents, persisted during the first twenty hours, and as I had no appetite, but real nausea, I now feel weak and unable for much work. During all the time too, I have had almost no sleep and could only lie on my left side. But, of course, was not much in bed in day-time.

October 7: Wednesday.

Two days ago, rec'd. an invitation to Founders Day Ceremonies at Lehigh University, from my friend R. A. Lamberton, the President, which will take place tomorrow, my 82<sup>nd</sup> birth day. Wrote to him a few minutes ago. He was one of the Trustees with me at Harrisburgh as was Traill Green, M.D. and Dr. Atlee and others. I was with them seven years.

Death of Dr. Atlee.

Dr. John Light Atlee was buried last Monday from his home in Lancaster. He had reached his 86<sup>th</sup> year; graduated in 1820 and cont'd. in active practice as Surgeon and Physician 65 years. He was indeed a great Surgeon and a great physician. For more than 30 years he was President of the Board of Trustees of the Lunatic Hospital in Harrisburgh. I was one of the trustees with him for seven years, twice appointed by Governor Hartranft and once by Gov. Hoyt. One of Gov. Hartranft's appointments was for an unexpired term. At the end of Gov. Hoyt's appointment, Gov. Pattison, a Democrat, as my term was out, appointed one of his friends in my place, which I thought was right, as I was then out of the District. When I was first appointed, that District comprized [sic] all Eastern Pennsylvania. The establishment of the Eastern Hospital, out of several of the Counties that belonged to Harrisburgh district before, and made the Eastern District.



October 9: Friday.

I made a visit to the Eastern Hospital this afternoon; had a little talk with Dr. Chase on business and medicine, and with Dr. Bennett on various matters. She wishes me to stay to the meeting tonight, but I declined doing it. My nephew, Dr. E. M. Corson, [is] expected to be there. Transacted some money matters with John J. Corson. Rec'd. my ½ dividend on \$1400 of County Bonds.

Visited Ex-Senator Wm. Yeakle today. He has been poorly some-time, is only about 60, but seems feeble and broken in health.

Daughter Bertha and her daughter Dorothea, who is six years old, were here today.

Wife seems better for a few days, moves about quite briskly.

October 13: Tuesday.

I have a letter today from Dr. Cotton of Meadville, who has become greatly interested about my palpitation. I have an interesting correspondence with him on the subject of Aconite, Veratrin, Digitalis, &c., &c. He does not seem satisfied that any of them would be quite safe for me.

Mrs. Williams wishes me to appoint a time and place to meet herself and sister, so that I may examine the latter and prescribe for her Epilepsy. She had many to prescribe for her. Has been in Pa. Hospital, &c., &c.

I am doing very little practice, which is a real comfort to me, as I can now attend a little to my minerals, which I have been at today; can also do much reading and writing and, shall I say, farming, certainly overseeing the men and directing them. It is a real pleasure to me to see the wheat crop already finely underway for next season.

Death of Judge William H. Yerkes, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> 1885.

Last week, Judge Yerkes held Court in Philadelphia, Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. On Wednesday after 3 P.M. & Court had adjourned, he went home, was taken with severe pains in his chest and died on Saturday just after noon. He had suffered from Bright's disease for several years. And when he was taken with this pleuritic, or pneumonia affection, there were no active anti-inflammatory measures resorted to, and so he passed away. I think it likely, that a good vs, and some cups or leeches to the affected part would have saved him. But there is so great hostility to any other treatment but that of Aconite or Verat[rum] viride, a most pernicious treatment in my mind, that of course Dr. Markley did not venture it.

October 14: Wednesday.

Follen and myself left home at 9 A.M., reached Judge Yerkes' house at 10:30, the funeral hour. There was quite a large gathering of very respectable men and very few women. There had been no invitations sent. I met there my friends, Justus Mitchell of Hatboro; Judge Newlin Fell of Phila., son of my long-time friend Joseph Fell of Bucks County; Dr. Markley of Hatboro; Judge Ludlow, and Judge Finletter of Phila., to whom I was introduced by Judge Fell, and to whom my name seemed to be as familiar as theirs were to me. Also met Judge Norman Yerkes of Bucks Co. Court, whom I had known before.

The funeral people took the Cars at Hatboro. Follen went with them; and at 10 minutes after 12, I left for home, where I arrived at ¼ of 2 P.M. and found "mother"

(wife) very glad of my return.

Judge Yerkes was a noble man. He was married to Miss Minnie Hurst, sister to Jeannie Read, wife of Dr. Lewis Read, who was buried in Mr. Hurst's lot in Montgomery Cemetery. Judge Yerkes was for years a partner, Law-partner, with Follen. We were all fond of him. To my brother William, his death was a severe blow. They were so long intimate, as was Follen and Judge Yerkes. Follen was a Clerk with him when he was [empty space] during the enlistment of recruits during the War.

October 15: Thursday.

I went to Norristown to get \$1000 for a Mortgage which a man wanted to pay off. At 10 ½ A.M., while sitting at Mary Roberts', talking with her and Hannah Schultz, her sister (my niece), I was attacked with palpitation, and it cont'd. on me till 3 A.M. on Friday, next day.

October 17: Saturday.

Rec'd. my \$1000 and put it in Albertson's Bank. Saw several patients.

October 18: Sunday.

Visited several patients today; was busy with my minerals part of the afternoon. Took "mother" (wife) carriage riding, about 3 miles, towards evening.

Jay & Susan came here on a short visit, before noon. [They] went home to dinner. Sunday Evening. Busy writing letters.

October 26: Monday.

8 P.M. Yesterday, I visited some patients in the morning, got to Friends Meeting in good time. It was a conference meeting. After dinner, Follen, Jawood Lukens and myself went over to the South Valley Hill to see Samuel Tyson and family and to see his fine minerals. Had a pleasant time. Samuel's daughter has just engaged in the study of medicine. I encouraged her as she seemed a little nervous about it. Reached home at 5 P.[M.] After supper, took "mother", wife, [for] a short ride. All last week, I did a good deal of practice and a great many other things, such as managing my men, seeing to my rents, writing and receiving many letters, and reading medical and other journals.

Today I have had a letter from Dr. Cotton, who says he will aid me all in his power to place all our State Hospitals for Insane under management like that which prevails at Norristown, viz., to be managed by Trustees and not by a Superintendent; and one from Dr. Pepper in reference to a case of rapid pulse, over which he has made some fuss. I pin them both here.

I have been steadily "on the go" today.

October 31: Saturday.

Death of my Friend Dr. George Hamilton.

November 1: Sunday.

Last week from Monday morning till Friday night, the meetings of the Public School Teachers were held in the "Music Hall" in Norristown every day and evening. As I do not hear speakers in large rooms very well, I did not go until Wednesday. Then

went up the alley and in that way got a seat in a side box, with two Revs. and some Reporters. The Superintendent, Mr. Hoffecker, "getting sight" of me, came to me and invited me to make a speech to the Convention. I begged to be excused, but he hoped I would do it, "if only for five minutes, as you thirty years ago pled for the abolition of the rod, the introduction of Public Schools all over the country, and for the substitution of women for men as teachers." I still declined, claiming that I had just turned into my 83<sup>rd</sup> year (on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>), they might detect signs of dotage in me.

What a change in thirty years! Then only a few of the townships had accepted the law which at first was not obligatory on the townships, but mainly optional. Then, or rather for many of the first years of the law, the Superintendent pursued his own vocation, and only on leisure days, or many days, visited the schools. The Institutes too were poorly attended by teachers and by the public. Now, what an immense crowd! Music Hall [is] jammed. Lectures on numerous subjects, pertaining to school management, and on scientific subjects, every evening. "C'est le premier pas qui coute" (= It is the first step which costs), say the French, and I may say, "it is often too the first step which pays. The enactment of the law, here did the business.

Commencement of efforts to change the Laws which give to Superintendents of State Hospitals for the Insane the Control of these Institutions, this evening, Nov. 1, 1885. At 7 ½ P.M. this Sunday evening, Nov. 1, 1885, I resolved, while sitting behind the dining room stove, resting myself after a day of reading, writing and entertaining daughter Bertha and her children, to begin efforts to have the laws of the State Hospitals at Harrisburg, Danville, Warren and Pittsburgh changed so that the Superintendents should be removed and the Trustees empowered to act as those of the Eastern Hospital at Norristown are. To this end, my first move is to interest our Senator and Representatives in the matter favorably. I have therefore just written a long letter to our Senator, Hon. Wm. Henry Sutton, presenting the subject to him, and asking him to give me an interview.

November 2: Monday.

Last week, Dr. Hamilton, who a few years ago introduced himself to me while attending the meeting of the State Society in Phila. to thank me for some of my medical publications which greatly pleased him, and who has since been to me a warm friend, was buried today. I expected to attend at the ceremonies in the "Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 19<sup>th</sup> & Walnut, but could not. It was his young daughter, his son-in-law and gd. children who were burned to death less than a year ago in Pine St. This sad affair broke him down greatly and brought death prematurely. How sad! I loved him.

November 4: Wednesday.

Have visited nine families today, at considerable distances from each other, and have been twice at Conshohocken, to direct the making of a pail fence, "picket fence," I will say, and have directed the doings of my two men at home.

November 5: Thursday.

This day is just 3 weeks since my last attack of palpitation, if I had cont'd. well till afternoon. But at 2 o'clock, or rather at 1:40 A.M. while in bed, it came on this morning. I cont'd. in bed on my left side until 5 ½ A.M., then got up for relief to my hip

and breast, &c.

After breakfast, left with Follen for Consho., though I was very wretched. But as I always feel better when riding, I went; saw one patient there, got home at 9 ½ A.M. Went to bed. Took ¼ gr. morph. before I went to Consho., one at 10 A.M. [It] left me at ¼ of two P.M.

Have felt pretty well since the spell went off, but have not even employed myself in reading and writing as on former occasions.

Have had a hydrant put to my Turnpike Gate house in Consho., costing -- dol., also a fence in front of the lot, which cost me --- dollars, beside finding the posts and nails, and hinges for the gate. The Gardener who rented 4 acres of it paid me his first months rent today.

“Mother” (wife) has gotten the house in nice order. It is beautifully carpeted anew in the parlors, with 79 ½ yards of Brussels Carpet, at \$1.00 a yard. Such as sold for \$2.50 a yard a few years ago.; and our beautiful, very beautiful parlor carpet, which we have had for a few years, has been put on the large dining room, and it sets it off grandly. Wife has been much improved the last two weeks. She has superintended all the changes.

November 12: Thursday.

I have had three most interesting cases on hand for several days. One, a man of 68 who has been poorly for some months, but yet working as a boss carpenter occasionally, but for the past few weeks “doctoring with a homeopathist” [sic] until last Friday. He has immense discharges of urine, not albuminous, though “the Doctor” said he had Bright’s Disease. I saw him in the morning, gave him 1/32<sup>nd</sup> of a grain of morph. every 2 hours, five times on that day. The following night was sent for a 3 o’clock, because he had not been able to make water for hours. Used the catheter and took away 20 oz. He seemed dull, but talked well. [I] gave no med. He made a will at 9 A.M. Saturday. Died (comatose for hours) on Sunday morning at 8 ½ o’clock.

On Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup>, I was called to Ed Pierce, aged 17 years. [Has] Lock Jaw, and now he is still in the same condition, though I have treated him pretty actively. I shall write out his case elsewhere.

Mrs. Robert Thompson, aged about 50, somewhat Insane, ate from 10 to 20 Castor-Oil-Beans before noon on Monday 9<sup>th</sup>. At dusk, I found her without pulse in either wrist. Had been vomiting and purging since one P.M. most violently. Since 3 P.M. had had occasional violent cramps in the legs, so as to cause regular shrieks; mind clear, body cold. Directed jugs of hot water, hot bricks and other heated things to be placed around her; gave two teaspoonsful of a mixture of Spts. Camphor, Tinct. Cubeba, Cinnamon, &c., &c., one fourth of the mixture being Laudanum, followed by a teaspoonful in half an hour.

Suffice it to say, she has recovered.

I have had quite a number of other cases within the past week, so have not had any time for reading or correspondence.

Tomorrow I shall have of dangerous cases only the lock-jaw case and hope to have some more rest.

(“Mother”) wife is better. Expect Ada in a day or two; a letter came from them this morning.

November 13: Friday.

Have visited Edward Pierce five times today; have with much delay and effort had his bowel moved, and at 4 ½ P.M. began to give him opium and alcohol freely. He had 10 grs. Calomel yesterday and 100 drops Laudanum. I can just squeeze the tip of my forefinger between his teeth, as far as the nail goes. [His] back [is] stiff from the first dorsal to the last lumbar vertebrae, swallows with some difficulty when erect, cannot do it at all lying.

Have been very busy today. Thus, at 6 ½ visited Ed Pierce, one mile away; at 7 ½ went to Conshohocken with Follen & visited one man, and got some med. put up for Pierce. At 9 A.M. met Ellwood at Pierces. After our consultation, went to the B. Jones farm to see Matt, who was about to sow rye; came home and after dinner got Dan (another man) to take Rye and Timothy seed to Matt; [it] began to rain, and at 3 P.M., I was again at Freas, and after half an hour giving him med., came home, and at 4 P.M. went again with stimulants and anodynes for him. Went at 8 P.M. with Dr. Ellwood M. Corson [to] case 1<sup>st</sup> [Pierce]. [Prescribed] stimulants, one dessert spoon full of alcohol every 2 hours, half teaspoonful of Laud. at 9 o'clock and one to be taken after midnight if he be restless.

November 19: Thursday.

I have had great anxiety about this youth of 17. All the past week, when getting awake at night, I would lie for hours fearing I had done too much or too little, and conjuring up all kinds of disasters that might happen [to] him. We have pursued the heavy stimulant and anodyne treatment steadily until last night when I cut them off and gave Chloral. This change did not do well; he was excited and apparently delirious, his mother says, at times. But I still let them off, giving today only Fluid Ext. Belladonna; applied also a blister to back of neck and had the spine below that rubbed with Turpentine.

I have been exceedingly busy "in practice." Yesterday was sent for to see a lady, Miss Shinn, at Isaac Jones' who was insane. Today she went by my advice to Norristown Hospital under Dr. Alice Bennett. What a grand affair is this Hospital with its woman physician and her assistants, two women physicians, my niece Hannah Corson as supervisor, and women attendants, [caring for] more than 600 women patients.

Yesterday, 18<sup>th</sup>, Ada, wife of our son Dr. J. K. Corson, came up from Phila. with Follen. She had reached the City the evening before, 17<sup>th</sup>, and Frannie, Bertha and the latter's son Thomas & daughter Frannie Yocom had met her at the Pa. Depot at 7 P.M., after which she went home (460 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St.) with Frannie to stay all night.

Today, she and Mary and her mother took dinner with Susan Lukens, our daughter. I went for them at 3 P.M. and brot them home.

I was attacked by palp. yesterday at 8 A.M., which lasted me all day and till 8 P.M., and yet all this time I was going on with my practice till noon, and after noon, attended the County Medical Society, mainly to meet Dr. Wolfe who wanted to have a private talk with me. We had a good long one in brother Wm.'s office. We had quite a large Society meeting.

I am really doing quite a large practice now. Wm. says I have more patients now than himself and Ellwood both.

November 22: Sunday.

9 P.M. Lock-Jaw case continued. There is evident amendment. Mouth slightly more open.

Ada, son Joseph's wife, here with us, was in the City yesterday and staid last night with daughter Susan. Came here this morning. [I] visited my patient twice today. Did no other practice though I have several patients.

November 26: Thursday.

Thanksgiving Day. Ada left at 3 P.M. This is a dull drizzling day, and we have pursued our usual business, both men kept at odd jobs, cleaning up, &c.

There was not much observance of the day, save that some men did not work.

Mary who is sitting near me says I must put down that this is her birth-day, and "mother" adds, "also the anniversary of Jawood and Susan Lukens' (our daughter) Wedding Day," which was 14 years ago.

Mary is just finishing a most beautiful cushion-cover for her sister Bertha.

Foul Murder of aged John Sharpless of Delaware County, last Friday evening about 8 o'clock, by a black-man, or a white-man blackened. Great excitement. Murderer not yet caught.

Letters from Dr. Mays and Doctor Dolley, my nephew.

#### Sudden Death

Death of Vice President Hendricks, Yesterday, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>. He had been poorly for a day or two, but apparently pretty well before the moment of death. He was an able man, but worked strongly against the North in our efforts to suppress the slave-holders Rebellion. He was then and always a copper headed Democrat, 66 years of age. How strange is Destiny! Last Sunday Friend Sharpless and V. P. Hendrics [sic] both alive and well. At noon, the one murdered at 8 P.[M.], the other drops dead on Wednesday.

November 28: Saturday.

Pierce well. 7 P.M. Yesterday, I found my patient smiling, and thrusting his tongue out nearly as far as when in health. Fine appetite, pulse 88, skin soft & moist. No more med. needed; took leave of him not to come again till called for, save to drop in if passing.

Took Follen to Consho. before 8 A.M. and as he has his new portmanteau with him and don't expect to return till Monday evening, I suppose he is going to see Miss Diggs near Baltimore. He says he is not engaged to her. Queer, that he can go and stay there two nights at a time without being engaged.

In a few minutes after he left me and while talking with Dr. Highley in Harry's drug store, the palpitation struck me. I cont'd. to talk awhile, then left and went to Esq. Smiths to receive rents collected for me; then to M. O'Brien's to get his check for \$60, the amount of his Medical Bill; then to F. Fleck's to advise him; then to see a crippled woman patient, then by way of Sp. Mill home at 11 ½ A.M. This afternoon, visited two patients at Barren Hill, now Fayette Hill, in hope that I would feel better than in sitting and lying about the house, but I was most wretched. Still my patients did not discover that I ailed at all.

Since then I have kept up, reading and writing. "It is," as Irishmen say, "still at me."

The medical journals, and newspapers, keep me busy for an hour or two daily. Newspapers I seldom read till after supper. The men are taking in our corn. We never before had it out so late.

The County is excited over the murder of John Townsend and sudden death of Mr. Hendrics [sic].

November 29: Sunday.

Morning 2 A.M. awakened with palpitation, though a spell had only gone off 6 ½ hours before, and cont'd. 14 ½ hours, or until 4 P.M. I have been miserable enough with it as the day has been gloomy and I have not ridden out. I am always better if I can ride out or engage in reading, or writing, or conversation when the palp. is on me.

Follen went yesterday to Baltimore, to see Miss Diggs, I suppose. Mother and Mary and myself have been without company all day, and as mother has been poorly, we have had a dreary time of it, I having the palp. the whole day. This afternoon in order to get my mind well engaged, I have been reading Mineralogy and arranging my minerals, and great relief the work gave me, and after I quit it and came up to the house, it soon went off.

December 6: Sunday.

During the past week I was quite busy, with many duties. Had some patients of my own and was called in consultation by Dr. D. R. Beaver. A young man had been ill with Typhoid Fever for three weeks, when at last Dr. Beaver awakened to the fact that he was almost to die, he hastened to have me to see him, so as to have me share the responsibility. A week earlier possibly, I could have suggested a saving line of treatment. The patient died a few hours after our visit. He was George McKee, son-in-law of Wm. Crawford, L. Merion Tp.

Susan and Ada reached Jefferson Barracks in due time, yesterday at 7 P.M.

I have today (Sunday) instead of going to Meeting, packed up not only the Ante Diluvian Turtle or Tortoise, which has been under the glass-case in the parlor for years, and was one Dr. Joseph Leidy, the great Scientist, brot me years ago; one of several Joseph sent him from the Bad-Lands of Wyoming Ty., but also all other fossils which I have from that region. My gd. nephew Dr. Charles Sumner Dolley is now lecturing in the Biological Department of the University of Pa., and they wish, now that they have commenced this subject, to have fossils to show the "Class."

"Mother", wife, is improved in health somewhat, though she thinks it is not apparent to her.

Mrs. Lightfoot, an earnest "Woman's Rights" advocate, in other words an earnest advocate and promoter of all measures which tend to remove the disabilities under which women labor, while men are exempt by Law and the customs of Society, whom I met yesterday at Geo. Corson's, asked me for some of my published reports and papers of which she had heard. I gave her my "Report to the State Med. Soc. of Pa. "on the propriety of having women physicians for the women Insane, and several other documents.

December 10: Thursday.

Attended the meeting of the County Historical Society today; only four of us

there, Col. Theodore Bean, Mr. Strassburger, Mr. Henry Kratz, and myself.

We hope to have Susan at her home in Conshohocken by Saturday night. I have had a letter from her which I will pin here, with two of Joseph's. They seem to have had a pleasant time there with each other.

Mother has been worrying very much about Susan, fearing that she might not get home safely.

December 13: Sunday.

I went to Philad. on Friday and took some of my fossils to Dr. Leidy for the Biological Society's museum. Then went to see Dr. Mays to talk with him about my case, and which of the heart tonics would he [think] best for me; then made a visit to Dr. Charles Herman Thomas, a few doors away. Had a pleasant chat with Mrs. Thomas, and an introduction to Dr. Thomas' father; then took the Cars to the University, heard my friend Dr. James Tyson lecture on Physiology; then went to the Biological department, but failed to see my nephew Dr. Dolley who is lecturer there; then took Cars back to the Continental, where in its restaurant I took a good dinner of stewed oysters and some hot coffee; then crossed Chestnut St. to Clafflin's [sic] shoe-store and got a pair of Walkinphast shoes, \$8.50; then to Follen's office; then both of us to see the "Cyclorama of the battle of Gettysburg." A wonderful picture, 50 feet high and 300 feet in length hung in a circle. House [was] built on purpose for its exhibition. Oh, what a realistic thing. I directly lost all feeling that I was in a house. I was at Gettysburg, in the field of battle, the battle over, but the Guns still firing all over the fields for miles. The soldiers and horses dead or dying here and there in immense numbers. This is the grandest painting I have ever looked on.

We came away, Follen to go to his office, I to visit Mrs. Hannah Hickley, nearly 20 squares away, an old friend. With her mother [Mrs. Woglom, No. 149 N. Ninth St.] I boarded in the winters of 26-27 and 27-28, while a medical student in Phila. Hannah was then unmarried. She was the oldest of five sisters, a nice set of girls. They all but one finally married. A brief visit to her and her husband and "sister Catherine," and away a few squares to see the two daughters of my fellow student (of 57 years ago), Dr. Wm. L. Vanhorn, Surgeon U.S. Navy, who died at Memphis almost 30 years ago. The eldest daughter Frannie is unmarried, the other, Ada, is wife of Lawyer John A. Burton whose office is on Walnut St.; a brief visit, then to the Columbia Av. Station to take the 4:45 P.M. train for home. Follen was on the train and we came home together, reaching here at ¼ before six P.M.

It was a heavy days work for me, but I did not feel much tired. I was too thinly clad. I had been using a woolen jacket or warmers, under my dress coat for a few days, but left it off that morning. So when I rose Saturday morning I had a heavy cold on my chest, but this evening I am much better than I was last evening.

Have been in the house most of the day, only made two medical visits, have written to Mrs. Carter at Fort Bridger, to Dr. Stewart at Erie, Dr. Horton at Terrytown, Bradford County.

December 23: Wednesday.

I have not written since the 13<sup>th</sup> partly because there was not much new, save what comes to us daily, through the numerous newspapers, and partly because I have



been very busy, reading, writing to friends to aid me in preparing the profession for a motion which I wish to pass before the Pa. Medical Society in June-next at Williamsport, to appoint a Committee to memorialize the Legislature for an "Act" to change certain laws regulating the Government of Hospitals for insane people.

Within the last 24 hours I have had 3 spells of palpitation, each of which lasted only about 3 minutes.

There is a demand for Iron-ore again, and I have two parties digging on my lands who give me a royalty of 50 cts. per ton. Another party, a very strong one has made me an offer to explore the B. Jones farm owned by Robert R. Corson and myself. So it may be that the dawn of Jubilee is at hand. The weather is wonderfully mild now, not even freezing at night.

December 24: Thursday.

Thermometer 48° at 7 o'clock A.M. Went with Follen at sunrise to Consho., from thence to see a patient in the town, then over Schuylkill to Alan Woods farm for money.; also to Roberts farm; then called to see Mrs. Throp[p], wife of Joseph Thropp, but parted from him now for more than a year, a sad thing, rich with fine promising children; then to Barren Hill, to make out a paper to get a pittance of \$1.00 per week from the County for sick and destitute daughter of Andrew Frie, now deceased, who with his wife, was a good friend of mine for half a century; then home to dinner. Then to Sp. Mill for a box from James L. Davis of Virginia, a Turkey, a dozen quails, and seven rabbits. They came in good order. This man is an acquaintance made by Joseph & Follen years ago, to get the mother of a color'd man, former slave, then living with brother Wm., and who was owned by Mr. Davis before the War of the Rebellion; called on my way to leave some of my pamphlets with Isaac Roberts and wife who were anxious to read them. Have just finished a letter of thanks to Mr. Davis and family, and three letters of well wishes to Drs. Alfred Stillé, Traill Green and Henry H. Smith. All have been professors. Dr. Green still is. The others have resigned.

December 25: Friday.

We were all at home, mother and self, Mary and Follen.

The box from Mr. Davis of Va. contained the largest turkey I have ever seen, seven Rabbits and Eleven Partridges, all in a good state. We gave Helen two rabbits and five partridges. So we had a good dinner of turkey following a breakfast of rabbit.

I read much.

December 28: Monday.

Left for Consho. with Follen before sunrise; went from there to the B. Jones lot to see the ore digger; then to other places rapidly till 11 A.M. After noon to Norristown, to see that all my insurance papers were in order and to get \$2200 more on my Norristown houses.

Rec'd. letters today from Emeritus Professor Alfred Stillé, M.D., Phila.; Emeritus Professor Henry H. Smith, M.D., Phila., both formerly of the University of Pa., and Dr. R. Lowry Sibbett [Sibbet] of Carlisle.

Visit to the Japanese Opera.

I had almost forgotten to say that Follen got two tickets for Mary and myself at \$1.00 each. I felt ashamed to go, with my white head, so striking in a house full of young black heads; but he had kindly gotten the tickets and Mary wished to go, so on Friday at noon we started. It was the 90<sup>th</sup> consecutive performance. We were there ¼ hour before two, at the hour the curtain was raised to a jammed house, and a novel scene presented. Japanese girls were there in profusion, beautiful, lithe and young. The Mikado Lady too. I can not spend time now to describe the gorgeousness of the scenery and the dresses, all in the highest style of Japanese Art. Two and a half [hours] passed away rapidly. The music was said to be charming.

## 1886

January 4: Monday.

The New Year Day passed without any special disturbance. It is well to record here that for the past two years, no firing of guns to shoot away the New Year, and Bells and other noisy things “to ring in” the new have been allowed in Phila. and some other places. This has all been forbidden under severe penalties and has thus been completely stopped. The small towns like Conshohocken, Norristown, &c., have followed suit, and through the County this year we have scarcely had a gun “fired.”

The temperature today has been 57° and for the past 10 days, it has been ranging from 32° to 35° at sunrise, to 45° to 50° at noon. Men have been plowing the past week. We have been doing much work, which in common winter time could not be done.

I have three sets of men digging for ore on my different lots of land. I have 40 acres, 12 ½ of them are in Conshohocken, 4 ½ in Plymouth, the rest in Whitmarsh. Besides, I have part ownership with Robt. R. Corson in the B. Jones farm of 27 acres. It is on these lots the men are digging.

I have been quite busy since last writing. Dear wife (mother we all call her) has been not well, but she is all day moving around the house superintending and having every thing in order. Her heart affection is distressing to her at times if she does so much as to excite it.

Death of David L. Wood.

The death of my friend, my genial friend, at nine o'clock P.M. of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the year 1886, was a surprise and sorrow to me. I have known him intimately for about half a century, and whenever we met, in all that time, he was always pleasant, laughing, joking. Almost every morning during the past few years that I have been going early with Follen to Conshohocken, we have passed each other. Often he would run off of the pavement to my carriage to ask how I was, and to say some pleasant things to me. He died in Phila., where he had just gone to spend the winter as was his wont. [He] was ill but a few days, fell a victim to pneumonia, treated by the present mode of depressants, like Verat. viride, digitalis, &c., without bleeding from the arm. One good bleeding would no doubt have saved him. He will be buried tomorrow.

**Editor's note:** The reader should not totally dismiss the efficacy of blood-letting, because a reduction in blood volume in congestive heart failure with acute pulmonary edema can have a very beneficial effect and may be life-saving.

January 7: Thursday.

Have had two short spells of palp., 4 to 6 hours each, during, or within the past week. Attended the funeral ceremonies at the house of Dr. Samuel Freedley; he was in his 87<sup>th</sup> year. I rode a good deal also in business matters. Wrote letters to Dr. Traill Green in reply and to "Aunt Harriet Foulke," &c.

Wife [is] better today. Follen [is] taking tea with a young lawyer friend in Manayunk this evening.

The papers are filled with interesting news from all parts of the world, and some time must be spent with the Newspapers and some with medicine, some with science of some kind, so the day goes without an idle hour, and pleasantly enough.

January 11: Monday.

9 P.M. Therm. at 8° Fahr.; fine sleighing.

Have had calls since last writing from quite a number of notables, as well as from three persons grateful for the aid of my influence in getting them into situations to make a living. All [were] pleasant to receive.

Am engaged in writing a paper of "Midwifery in the Country," for the College of Physicians of Phila. It will [contain] statistics of 3041 cases of labor, in which 3066 children were born.

Rec'd. on Saturday from Mrs. M. C. Goodlett of Nashville, Tennessee, a woman who is earnestly laboring to have the hospitals for insane in the State managed and officered as ours at Norristown is, a letter asking me to send her more papers to aid the cause, either some which I have already published, or to write some for the Nashville Newspapers. This evening I have written a reply and have enveloped two articles which I had published nearly a year ago, in the Norristown Herald and Free Press, and have promised to add a couple more, which will be sent to her for publication in the Nashville papers.

Mahlon H. Dickinson, my Kinsman and President of the Board of Public Charities, in reply to my letter informing him of my efforts, already commenced, to change the management of the hospitals of this State to conform to that of the Norristown one, has agreed to aid me – see his letter. [The letter is not in the diary].

January 16: Saturday.

Yesterday I had palp. several hours. Wm. Miller's son came to me from Phila. Jan 9<sup>th</sup> with a diseased arm which he had the doctors at for 11 months in vain efforts to cure it. It is a trifling case which I can cure readily. I will take him to Ellwood to see if he agrees with me.

January 23: Saturday.

On the opposite page, at bottom, is a note about Wm. Miller's son and his sore arm. Dr. Gross, son of the famous Dr. Samuel D. Gross, told him he would have to cut open the arm & scrape the bone. He then came to me. It is merely a sinus just under the skin, about 6 inches long, from an abscess of a year ago, on the wrist. Ellwood & myself have treated him by injecting a weak iodine sol. through it, and then adding pressure, we think he is nearly well.

Yesterday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4 A.M. while in bed, I was awakened and found myself with the palp.; it lasted me till 11 ½ A.M.; had to get up & go into the room to see Dr. Freas. I went in so quickly and stood up till I got giddy when it went off instantly.

The weather has been very cold. We have filled the Ice house with ice about 10 inches thick.

I have been much engaged in writing my obstetrical report, reading current Journals, corresponding, &c.

Mother has been very poorly, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> after [I] attending the County Medical Society. After supper as wife complained of dizziness and unpleasant feeling in the forehead, which she had had for several days, I at 6 P.M. gave her, in mistake, 14 drops of fluid Ext. of Belladonna, instead of Digitalis. In about an hour she said her mouth and lips were all dried up. She thought that was a strong dose. Soon she spoke of it again. I got up and looked at the bottle and saw that I had made a mistake. The dose of the latter is only 4 drops. I had given 14 drops. It alarmed me. Without a word to her I went hastily down to "Matt" and sent him for my nephew, Dr. Ellwood M. Corson, 4 miles away, then went in and sat down near her. I found an hour and a half had elapsed and she was not getting worse. I was excessively unhappy. After a "bit" she asked me if I had not made a mistake. I told her yes, and what she had taken, but did not speak of it as a poisonous dose, and as she had known it well as a remedy for whooping cough, she did not get alarmed. Time wore on slowly, and Ellwood did not come for three hours. She was no worse. In 4 hours we went to bed. (I forgot to say that I gave her ¼ gr. sulph. morph., as an antagonist of the Belladonna). She was easy but did not sleep much, and I scarcely slept a wink the whole night. In the morning she was quite bright. Head free from pain, no giddiness, and the whole day was better than she had been for weeks. Yesterday, Friday, [she] was not so well; today Saturday is like she was before she took the Belladonna.

January 26: Tuesday.

I had prepared last night, before I went to bed, a letter to the "Sec'y. of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals," Miss Adele Biddle, in which I gave two cases taken from medical journals, in which operations or rather experiments were performed, while the persons were dying. But this morning I had some hours of great discomfort, from hearing how poor daughter Tacie was worried by her husband, who since his failure finds himself out of funds and out of friends, nearly, and out of humor, and so I concluded I would not meddle with that meeting, as the cases which I had prepared, if read in the meeting, would get into the papers with my name attached, which I did not want. My intention now is, to keep them till the meeting of the State Medical Society when, if the vivisectionists bring up the subject, I will hurl them at them.

Dr. Clara Marshall of the Woman's Medical College sent me a letter, which I rec'd. this morning, informing me that the "class" were very anxious to see and hear me talk, as they had all heard so often of my efforts to advance the interests of women. She therefore, in the name of the College, invited me to address the Class, in the early part of March. I have mislaid the letter. Several came today and that is the only one mislaid.

January 28: Thursday.

Invited yesterday to talk for an hour before the Class, in the Auxiliary Course at

the Woman's College. I replied to the letter of Clara Marshall but did not agree to do it, and yet I will probably do so.

Am greatly engaged at various matters now, and can scarcely get any time to finish my Statistics of Midwifery. Visited the Norristown Hospital for Insane today, a grand institution! Went with Dr. Highley yesterday at 2 P.M. in consultation, in West Conshohocken, from there to Norristown to see a boy with Dr. Ellwood, my nephew. Home by 6 P.M. After supper [went] to see a neighbor.

February 6: Saturday.

Evening, 8 o'clock. It is now 15 days since I have had palpitation and yet I have taken no means to prevent it. But it will surely come tomorrow. It is about the time and Sunday is a usual day for it.

We have had the thermometer below zero several mornings and this week has been a snowy one. There is a very deep snow on the Country now, and it is all over the United States as low as Georgia. There is a very strong temperance feeling exhibited in nearly all the States just now. There will be Prohibition Parties able to control elections very soon. The British Ministry that succeeded Gladstone and his Ministers less than a year ago, has had, within a fortnight, to give way and see Gladstone called by the Queen to form a new ministry.

The Irish leader, Mr. Parnell struggling for Home Rule, is favored by Mr. Gladstone, and the prospect is, a Parliament for Ireland.

(Mother) wife seems better.

Got \$110 today for 15 consultation visits to the child of George Castor of Philad. nearly three years ago, perhaps more than 3 years. I forgot the exact time. It was a case of Diphtheritic Croup in which I prevented the opening of the wind-pipe, by Dr. Lewis who was there ready to perform the operation whenever I should say there was no hope for it, save in an operation. I would not yield; the child recovered.

February 7: Sunday.

All day I was engaged in reading, writing letters and other writing, save an hour or two to talk with the family, and Susan & Jay who were here a short time.

Palp. at 7 o'clock just as I began to write to Joseph who is at Jefferson Barracks. The palp. cont'd. all night and till noon today, 17 hours. It was a pretty trying time. [Am] quite well now.

February 9: Tuesday.

Death of Major General Winfield Scott Hancock who died at his Head-Quarters on Governor's Island, New York, Feb. [9<sup>th</sup>]. He was perhaps one of our officers who had no superior in our late Rebellion. He was wounded at Gettysburg, during the terrible charge of Pickett's [Pickett's] Brigade. Search was made for the Ball in his thigh, there and also at the Hospital at [space], but without finding it. He was brought to Norristown where brother Wm. and our nephew, Dr. Lewis W. Read, who had served in the Crimean War, attended him. Dr. Read, discovered the ball deep in the upper inner part of the thigh, and had an instrument made by which he extracted it. It was a skillful performance. I went with Brother William to see the General while he was in bed in his mother's house, in Swede Street, just below Main St., the old home. At that time

General H.'s father was deceased. I knew him well. Also know the General pretty well. He always, when he came to Norristown, called at William's office to see him.

February 13: Saturday.

General Hancock's Burial. Immediately after dinner today, I took the carriage and went to Norristown, stopping at Tacie's (she lives in my house opposite the beautiful house of Judge Boyer) in Norristown, to be at the funeral of Major General Hancock. The special train on the Pennsylvania Schuylkill Valley Rail Road, was expected to arrive at the Station, right opposite my brother William's stables (my Norristown property) at 2 ½ P.M. Thousands of persons were in waiting on all contiguous places. About ten minutes after the time, it came, bringing the General's body, and a host of notables, military and otherwise. After the usual delays incident to the moving in such cases, the funeral procession moved. Follen who had come earlier from Philadelphia, went with me by another street and back to the Main St. in advance of the funeral train, as did scores of others. From the crossing of the Stony-Creek-Rail Road on Main St. to the Cemetery, the pavement and road were crowded with people hurrying on foot and in carriages through the snow and mud. It was an immense gathering. Some pieces of Artillery had been sent on, to fire salutes. As the carriages turned in from the Turnpike Road, cannon[s] were fired at intervals of several minutes. Oh! how simple this did seem to me. The number of women and men who were there wading through the slush and mud was immense. It is likely we shall have a particular account of the affair in the Sunday Newspapers tomorrow, and if so, I will paste a copy in here. I did not leave the carriage at the grounds. We arrived at home about 5 ½ P.M.

I knew the General pretty well. Once when I was on a visit to St. Louis, I called on him, and had an invitation next day to a small party at his house. I knew his father and mother and brother Hillary, a twin brother, quite well.

It seems incredible to me that the fearful war, which we had and which made Hancock famous, has been over more than 20 years, and that Grant, Hancock, Meade, McClellan and many more of the prominent men of our side are dead; and that Lee, Jackson, and many of the others on the Rebel side are also gone.

Feb. 13, 8 P.M., 1886. Hiram Corson.

February 17: Wednesday.

Since being at Hancock's funeral, I have not been very well, and on Sunday had palpitation 12 hours; took during its continuance 3/8 gr. morph., and after the palp. went off, the morph. affected me much more than it is wont to do. I think the powders were perhaps not well divided, not equally perhaps, and I got some of the larger ones.

After leaving Follen at Consho. P. Office at 8 A.M., went straight to Spring Mill to bring Frannie. At the station rec'd. a telegram that she could not come, because "Charley is sick," so sat in the warm reception room, and read the 4 letters rec'd. at the P.O. One from Cashier McDermott of the 1<sup>st</sup> Nat. Bank of Conshohocken, for the privilege of reading my Report on Stimulants in Disease delivered several years ago; one from Mrs. Corson of Manchester, N. Hampshire; one from Tacie Cresson, wanting money.

Just before [I] reached home was taken with palp., but I went to Tacie's and supplied her needs, to brother William's to see him, to the Bank to get some money, and

then home; all this time my heart going at the rate of 160 to 180 per minute. At 2 P.M. it went off.

The failure of Wm. L. Cresson is draining upon me quite heavily. Lose the rent and have to keep the family, or have poor Tacie in deep distress. He was a great drain on me by not paying rent for several years, and when he failed at Consho. many years ago, I paid \$800 for him and this time bought his interest in his father's mill at a cost of \$525 a month ago; gave him \$50.

February 20: Saturday.

I was sitting at home all this day, writing, reading and occasionally walking about to see the men at work when at 4 P.M., I was struck with palpitation. I had eaten a very hearty dinner of Crout [sic] and sausage, &c., and I concluded to take an emetic. I did so; the palp. left me in two hours.

February 22: Monday.

This is now a Holiday. Yesterday I went to Hicksite Meeting in the forenoon, wrote letters and read Friends Journal and Intelligencer in the afternoon, but did not get many letters written; did not feel able for it, after writing several pages to Mrs. Julia Corson of Manchester, New Hampshire, who has introduced me, by letter to the N.H. Corsons.

February 28: Sunday.

Since last writing, I have written a good many letters and have rec'd. many. The weather has been excessively cold and windy for the past three days, down to 10° at night and from 18 to 22 at noon, &c.

I have nearly finished my statistics and remarks of and on 3036 cases of obstetrics, of labor.

Wife has been poorly, but about all the time taking pains to see that every thing is properly managed and cared for. She had a few very light bleedings from the nose, and as her head was giddy and very uncomfortable, and she had been desirous to be bled for quite a long time, I bled her 8 ounces, but she was not materially bettered by it.

Bertha, and her son Thomas, and her daughter Georgie, came up this morning. I went to Spring Mill for them.

Some burglars broke into the house of Hon. Jno. Wood in Conshohocken, one of the windy nights, and carried his safe (700 pounds) out to a shed and made desperate efforts to break it open but could not.

It is now nearly 9 o'clock. Bertha and children have gone home. Jawood Lukens and Susan, who were here, have also gone. Follen has gone to Norristown. Our woman and her daughter have gone to bed. Dan, our man who attends to the fires and does chores, is in the office waiting to put Follen's horse away. So mother, Mary and myself are alone. I forgot to say that "Matt," our farmer, does not board with us. Mother is quietly sleeping in an arm-chair before the stove. Mary is on my left, reading a beautiful book which mother gave Bertha's children as a Christmas present, gave Bertha the money to buy presents and this was one of them, and today they brot it up to see how she would like it. It is a most interesting book for children, is all poems, of a kind to teach children to be humane.

March 7: Sunday.

I have been suffering for several days with a bad cold, which affects my breast greatly. In addition, I have taken medicine and have gotten used [to being] up so that I have had almost no sleep for several nights. I have not felt a desire to read or write for several days, until this afternoon.

Wife is better somewhat; goes about pretty briskly. I am considerably worried about Tacie and her children. Her husband is all the time trying to "get some-one to start him in business," and is not willing to go to work as a clerk on a salary. Thus they have not a cent, save what comes from me and daughter Susan Lukens. Tacie feels badly and because she does, I do.

It is a lovely day. Nature works on her own way regardless of the feelings of the people. All right, who am I, what but an atom of no moment in the movements of the universe.

March 16: Tuesday.

9 P.M. Since last writing, I have been very sick, sicker than for many, many years, but am well now. Never before was I so weak and so destitute of appetite for three days. Strange that though I have been so miserable, I have not had a spell of palpitation for more than three weeks. Today my appetite is fine and I feel pretty strong, so strong and like my former self, that I have reviewed and corrected my 45 pages of statistics, &c. Dr. Goodell has offered to read it before the Phila. Obstet. Soc. where it will be discussed. Have written a good many letters while sick; rec'd. many, was not able to attend the Ceremonies of graduation at the Woman's Medical College, or the reception, to both of which I was invited.

March 18: Thursday.

Mother (wife) has had a bad cold also, but is better now. Rec'd. a flattering letter from Dr. Lane [Samuel G. Lane] of Chambersburg today; very flattering to Joseph too, and I have enclosed it in a letter to him written this evening.

Am quite well again. Have sent my paper, 45 pages, to the Obstetrical Society of Phila. Dr. Goodell has kindly agreed to read it. I should say, offered to read it. I suppose it will receive sharp criticism, as I have criticized some of the members sharply at times.

March 21: Sunday.

Since my brief sickness a couple of weeks ago, I have been very well, and it was 27 days yesterday since I had palpitation, but yesterday at 3 ½ P.M., while just getting into my carriage at Livezey's store where I had gone for some salt, I was attacked. It lasted me till 11 ½ P.M. Soon after I reached home I lay down for a half hour, but was wretched, so got up, took 45 drops Tct. Digitalis and began to write an account of my palpitations from the first attack about 45 years ago to the present time.

I sat down and soon became so absorbed that I almost lost cognizance of the palpitation, and in 3 hours I had entirely completed it, besides stopping to eat supper. It is wonderful how absorption of the mind in reading, writing, or even interesting



conversation, will take away the discomfort of the palpitation. After finishing the paper, I went to bed and was very uncomfortable till 11 ½ P.M. when it ceased.

This morning I wrote a letter to Prof. Tyson, and enclosed it with the paper, and tomorrow morning will send them to him. I want to have it read before any Society that he may name.

(Mother) wife seems pretty poorly today. Follen took her [for] a short ride in the carriage this afternoon. Brother William came & staid to tea.

I began to prepare a paper, for the State Medical Society, this P.M., on the use of cold in diseases, but was interrupted to go away and see a friend, so did not get a single page written, but did some needed reading on the subject, and also read the whole speech, delivered by my friend Congressman I. Newton Evans, M.D. in Congress, on the, or against the coinage of Silver and bi-metallic currency.

Rec'd. a letter from Dr. Lane of Chambersburg, so complimentary to Joseph as well as myself that I sent it to Joseph. Rec'd. a letter from him today in which he says he was greatly touched by Dr. Lane's kind remembrance of him that he immediately wrote to him. They were both asst. surgeons, he a surgeon, I think, in the 6<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Reserves in the War of the Rebellion and went together through all the battles of The Wilderness with Genl. Grant. It was a fearful time. I hope they will now correspond. I am sure it will be pleasant to them both.

March 25: [Thursday].

I am doing a little practice and am wonderfully busy, in having the man kept to work, cleaning up for Spring. Was taken, while riding at 8 ½ A.M. today, with palp. It lasted me till 4 P.M. I went to Consho. for some business operations, see a patient, &c.; got home at 10, took 60 drops Tinct. Digitalis, and in two hours ¼ gr. sulph. morph. [It] went off at 4 P.M. while I was looking at a brick layer putting down a brick walk to the office. Wife has been very poorly for several days, but still [is] moving around, overseeing her people.

March 28: Sunday.

8 o'clock. Have practiced in a very bad case of pneumonia that did not come to me until another had had it for three days. Bleed him freely, though the other doctor had pronounced it a grave case of Typhoid Pneumonia. I have had the care of it for a week; [patient] is getting well.

There is a fearful time all over the United States with "strikes," of hundreds of workers for corporations, mines, and rail-roads. Thousands of men out who will not allow an engine to carry freight. The Governors of Missouri, Kansas, Texas & Arkansas are about to call out the militia to enforce the laws. The ugly feature is that these strikers will not let others work in their stead.

Mother is poorly, fretful and cries on the least occasions. I am trying to write a paper on the value of cold in febrile affections, but am interrupted so often that it is most unsatisfactory when done.

April 10: Saturday.

Have had palpitation twice, four hours or thereabouts each time. I have practiced every day some. Have written and rec'd. many letters.

Dr. Goodell read my long paper, more than 40 pages, before the Philadelphia Obstetrical Society. In his letter to me since, he says, "Your paper produced a great sensation and was much applauded."

I am now engaged on a paper, entitled "Cold as a Remedy in inflammatory affections," for the State Medical Society June 3<sup>rd</sup>. I can write but a very little at a time, so frequently am I interrupted.

I am much annoyed now, that I have to keep Wm. Cresson's family. Not a cent have they.

Gladstone, England's Premier, has spoken his great Speech in favor of Home-Rule for Ireland. It was on Thursday, or Friday. It seems as though he may carry the measure. He is a "grand old man," as he is now termed in London and Ireland.

April 18: Sunday.

7 A.M. Rec'd. thanks for my paper from the Obstetrical Society a few days since, and yesterday a letter from the Secretary, saying it will be published in full in the "New York Medical Journal," and telling me that the Society will always be pleased to have papers from me on any obstetrical or gynecological subject, or diseases of children, and suggesting to me to write a thorough article on Pneumonia for the N. York Journal.

Wife has been about as usual the past week, [is] very poorly, pretty weak, but still going about the house directing Catharine and Annie, and keeping every thing in best order.

Eve. 7 o'clock. Matt has just gone to Spring Mill for Joseph & Mary, who were to arrive in Phila. from St. Louis at 7 P.M. Follen went down at 4 P.[M.] to meet them. So they will all be up together. "Mother" (wife) has been coughing a good deal today, has taken a cold again, she says. Just before sunset I took her in the carriage out to George Corson's, having something to say to him. She is desirous to ride, but seems as if she could not bear to go faster than a good walk.

April 19: Monday.

Palp. from 8 A.M. till 10 P.M. = 14 hours.

April 25: Sunday.

Joseph & Mary have been enjoying themselves, and making pleasant visits to their relatives since their arrival a week ago.

Mother has not got over her cold; coughs a good deal, and her heart beats too strongly for comfort, though it has to do so, to keep up a full circulation of blood.

April 27: Tuesday.

I am attending several patients every day. Consultation with Dr. Highley yesterday.

April 30: Friday.

Joseph and daughter Mary go home. After visiting two patients early this morning, Joseph and his daughter Mary, 10 years old, our Mary and myself went to Conshohocken, and from there to Spring Mill where I visited another patient; then Jos., his daughter and myself, took the cars to Phila., on the Pa. Road, and there Susan and

Follen came. At 11:50, Jos. and Mary took the cars and in a minute or two were speeding away towards their home at Jefferson Barracks 12 miles below St. Louis, Missouri.

May 3: Monday.

A letter from Jos. from Altoona, where they took supper the evening of their first day on the trip home; getting on well.

May 4: Tuesday.

The Knights of Labor cause "strikes," all over the Northern States.

I have not noticed this wide-spread riot, let me call. Thousands, hundreds of thousands of workmen have left their various labors and, what is even worse than that have, by violence and great personal abuse, prevented others from taking their places, or even carrying on the same kind of work in other places.

They demand 8 hours as a day's work but pay for 10 hours; in other words, the same pay that they have been getting but to work only 8 hours, instead of 10 hours as they have been doing.

It began in Missouri, and has spread over the whole of the Northern States. It is this very night in full blast in Chicago, where the Governor of the State and the Mayor of the City have all their forces on hand in anticipation of a more bloody time tonight than they had last night. I will not attempt an account in detail of the wide-spread pestilence, pestilence it is of the ugliest kind. I will merely say of it, [it] is an accursed thing and should be put down even if the bayonet should be needed for the work.

My dear wife, whom we all call mother in our ordinary daily life, does not improve. She cannot bear the warm rooms, which in this mild weather result from even a very moderate fire. So while we are comfortable in them, she is uncomfortable. This necessitates our accustoming ourselves to a rather cool house.

She is down many times a day, short spells, but keeps moving around and superintending affairs most of the day, and in most perfect order she has things.

May 10: Monday.

Yesterday, at 8 A.M. was attacked by palp. which lasted till 1 P.M., then went off, but came again at 3 P.[M.], staid only about five minutes, then off till 8 P.M.; staid only half hour. During nearly all the time it was on me, I was up and once rode out to B[arren] Hill with Follen just before dinner; [I] took at first 40 drops Tct. Digitalis and in two hours one gr. morph. As soon as the palp. goes off, I feel the morph. greatly.

My Statistics of 3036 cases of Labor have been discussed on two Thursdays at the Obstetrical Society of Philad. and is announced for next Thursday, and will be cont'd. for several weeks, as they are having it printed and will discuss each section separately.

Rec'd. an invitation today from Prof. Bruner of North Wales Academy inviting me to lecture before his school. I feel compelled [to decline] on account of having too much on hand, and on account of my age, 82<sup>nd</sup> year, and forgetfulness.

I am already ticketed for a speech before the Historical Societies of Bucks & Montgy. Counties at a joint, public meeting to be held June 10<sup>th</sup> at Ambler Park; also [am] expected to have work before the State Med. Soc. at Williamsport June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4, 5<sup>th</sup>, and am pressed to be at the discussion of my paper in Phila.

Letter of congratulation & thanks from Dr. Howard Kelly of Phila., for my paper on Statistics of 3036 cases of labor. I do not know Dr. Kelly but brother Wm. says he is a rising young gynecological surgeon, the rival of the eminent Dr. Goodell now. See it on page 73, or 74 now.

May 21: Friday.

I have been greatly and anxiously engaged this whole week with my nephew, Dr. Ellwood Maulsby Corson, who on Tuesday night, May 13 [May 13 was a Thursday], was at a wedding and ate of Lobster salad; next day was very sick, vomited, &c., but in the afternoon, rode to the Hospital for Insane. The following night [he] was fearfully sick, pain in the stomach, constant nausea & retching. I did not see him till Friday 2 P.M. He was then in fearful pain, was very sick, &c. See further account at page 79.

Today I have been over at Ardmore & called to see Dr. Joseph Anderson, Dr. Samuel Smith's family, Miss Margaret Harvey the poetess, and J. B. Burdette at Bryn Mawr. I found the latter very pleasant. My visit was to see if he would favor us with a 15 minutes paper, or speech at the meeting of the Bucks and Montgomery Counties Societies at Ambler Park on June 10<sup>th</sup>. He regretted that he could not come, as he would leave the Country June 1<sup>st</sup> to be away months. The poetess, Miss Harvey read me some of her new poems. She expects to issue a book of poems.

Rec'd. another letter, one from Louisville, Kentucky, commending me for writing the Statistics of 3036 cases of labor, from H. F. Kalfuss [sic], M.D. I pin it here.

**Editor's note:** This letter is not in the diary.

I have rec'd. 25 copies of the New York Medical Journal with part of my Statistics of 3036 cases of Labor. The other part will be sent me next week, 25 more copies; after that 100 pamphlets of it.

[May 25: Tuesday].

Two spells of only ¼ hour or so, and then on Monday 24<sup>th</sup>, from 10 A.M. till 4 P.[M.]; again 2 hours in the night of 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Busey of Washington sent me 3 pamphlets of his. Dr. Campbell of Augusta, Georgia, sent me 2 pamphlets. On one of them was written in pencil, after his compliments which were in ink, "I am fully with your views on antiseptics in childbirth." Dr. H. C. Coe wrote me a long letter thanking me for the "Statistics." Dr. Coe is a New Yorker. All the above were strangers to me but were attracted towards me by my paper, as was Dr. Kalfuss noticed on the former page.

Dr. Henry F. Campbell of Augusta, Georgia, sent me pamphlets of his own writings. On the title page of one he wrote his compliments, and below that, "I am with you in your views of Antiseptics." This [is] referring to my "Statistics of 3036 cases of labor. He had then only rec'd. the first number of the N. Y. Journal which contained it. As Dr. Campbell is one of the leading obstetricians and gynecologists of the South, I greatly appreciated the compliment, especially too as we had no acquaintance with each other.

Dr. Coe of New York also, after reading my first installment sent me his pamphlets on, "The exaggerated importance of the minor pelvic inflammations." All of the above were called forth by my "Statistics."

[May 29: Saturday].

Taken with palp. at 6 A.M. May 28<sup>th</sup>. Lasted till 8 A.M. Did not lie down.

I have had a heavy correspondence during the last two weeks, with medical men throughout the State, in relation to various matters.

May 30: Sunday.

Dr. Charles Thomas came to see us. I met him at Spring Mill at 2 P.M. He went back about 5 P.M. Howard Comfort & wife came & took tea. Brother Wm. Corson also came & took tea.

June 6: Sunday.

Was very busy last week. We had quite a scare last Monday. While in Norristown, my nephew Dr. Ellwood M. Corson told me, "that in the Sunday paper of yesterday was a brief statement that Dr. Carroll Corson, Elias H. Corson's (deceased) son had been arrested for arson." I was shocked. It became known throughout the whole United States I suppose, for it was copied into the papers every where as a rare bit of local news. Of course, few people knew or cared who he was.

The next day a telegram was rec'd. from his brother Henry who has a large stock farm 250 miles this side of Bismarck, where Carroll lives, that the matter had been investigated and Carroll had been declared innocent, with great applause from the audience in attendance.

We are greatly relieved. Hope to hear particulars from Henry in a few days.

My paper on the "Statistics," has been published entire now. It has been in three consecutive Journals. I have rec'd. Journals and letters from several of the most eminent men in the United States, medical men.

"Mother" (wife) has been as usual. While over Schuylkill this morning, visiting patients, was attacked by palpitation at 10 ½ o'clock; lasted till 1 ½ P.M.

Illness of Doctor Ellwood M. Corson.

He was at a grand wedding of Mr. Fox to Miss Coleman. He ate pretty late in the night of Lobster salad. Next morning (Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup>) had pains in stomach, great nausea & some vomiting, but was over at the hospital to see a patient with Dr. Alice Bennett. That night had pain and vomited much, with extreme sickness. On Thursday and Friday till noon it continued, under the care of brother Wm, Dr. Lewis Read and Dr. Wiley, the last should have been named first, as he lived near and had charge. He took aconite 2 drops and Digitalis every 2 hours, how long I do not know now; Blue mass<sup>xxix</sup>, & Bismuth, &c.; some lumps of ice, &c. I saw him, by req. of self.

June 17: Thursday.

I have been greatly engaged since last writing, have written a great deal in correspondence with those who have read my "Statistics," and who have sent me publications of their own to show me what they had done. I have rec'd. very flattering letters from them: Dr. H. Frazer Campbell of Augusta, Georgia; Dr. Spencer Free, of

Baltimore; Dr. S. W. Dickinson of Marion, VA.; Dr. R. Lowry Sibbett [Sibbet] of Carlisle, Pa., have all wrote to me on the subject this week. Dr. Sibbett, in the name of the Cumberland Co. Medical Society, has invited me to their meeting in the Hall of the Indian School Home at Carlisle on the 24<sup>th</sup>, this day [a] week, and to see the 400 Indian Scholars take their supper. He names the doctors who will entertain me.

Dr. Carroll of Hatboro has invited me to meet the adjunct Medical Society of Montgomery Co. in July. Swarthmore College trustees had invited me to their Commencement yesterday. Dr. Lamberton, President of Lehigh University, sent me an invitation to the Commencement there to be held this week. Trustees of Haverford College have invited me to their Commencement on 22<sup>nd</sup> of June. Dr. Waugh Lee, of the Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia, sent me a letter today, asking me in the name of the Trustees to become one of the Censors of that Institution.

Just now, 6 P.M., while writing the above, rec'd. a letter from W. H. Haines, M.D., No. 3304<sup>th</sup> St., N. York, asking for a copy of my Reprints of the "Statistics." As he sent a postal card, instead of a letter and did not forward a stamp, I think I need not send them.

June 18: Friday.

Taken with palp. at 8 A.M.; lasted me till 2 P.M. Took 20 grs. Bro. Pot. [potassium bromide] 1 hour before it left.

June 20: Sunday.

A beautiful morning! I was very busy last week; did very little work. I did not get to Swarthmore Commencement. This Tuesday coming I expect to go to Haverford College Commencement & to a medical meeting at Carlisle in the Indian Industrial School, on Tuesday, if mother should prove to be well enough to leave. I have rec'd. a hundred copies of my "Statistics" in pamphlet form and am now sending them to physicians who ask for them and to my friends who wish them.

June 22: Tuesday.

I had two invitations to Haverford Commencement. The College is managed by Orthodox Friends. I went over this morning, got there at 10 ½ A.M. Looked over their cabinets of Birds, Shells, & minerals and at 11 A.M. we were all seated in the "Hall." A short silence, then a prayer, then speeches by the young graduates, only 12, I think. When it was over at one P.M., I left at once for home. It was quite rainy all the time I was there. Arrived at home at 15' after two P.M.

Letters from Dr. Green, Dr. Wolf [Samuel Wolfe], and Dr. Chase of the Eastern Hospital. Dr. Chase is a brother to Pliny Chase, the President of Haverford College, who presided there this morning.

June 26: Saturday.

Deposited \$900.33 in bank today.

Dr. Chase wants me to be one of five Directors for a New Hospital. Dr. E. A. Martin, Mr. Samuel Bines, and Fleischman, all were trustees of the Eastern Hospital and Dr. Martin still is, and Mahlon H. Dickinson, are to compose the Board with me. Follen is not in favor of my going in.

June 30: Wednesday.

Letters from Dr. Campbell of Georgia; Dr. Michener of Chester Co., Pa.; Dr. Spencer M. Free of Baltimore; Dr. E. A. Martin of Allentown, Pa., about my "Statistics."

Death of Mary Corson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin.

She died after a few hours illness of Apoplexy. She was the daughter of John Corson of Northampton Tp., Bucks County, who died when she was an infant about 63 years ago. Died last Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of June, a few minutes after midnight. The funeral is set for 1 P.M. today. It is now within half an hour of that time. My granddaughter Frannie Yocom and myself will leave here in a few minutes, will go with them to the grave, then return to the great Wissahickon Hotel to see Robert R. Corson & wife, and call on Dr. Samuel Smith's family, who are boarding there.

July 3: Saturday.

From my niece Sarah Dolley, M.D., Dr. John Packhard [John H. Packard], and Dr. Wm. Goodell letters this week about the "Statistics." It is astonishing how many letters I have had commending my paper.

I have reviewed my case of Brain disease, in James Samson's dgt. and prepared it for publication in the Medical and Surgical Reporter. We have gotten a good deal of hay into the barn this week.

There is an excited, I might say with truth, an angry contest going on in England on the subject of "Home Rule" for Ireland. It is advocated by Gladstone, the leader of the Liberal Party, and opposed by Lord Chamberlain and others of his ilk, and even by John Bright the hitherto able reformer, on the Tory Side. The Grand Old Man as Mr. Gladstone is now every where called, is making a most able canvass of England and Scotland.

Broke off to talk to my haymakers, and now can't think it needful to say more on this subject.

John Parker, a color'd man who ran away from his Master in Va. in 1861, immediately after the Battle of Bull-Run, has just been here on a begging errand. For many years since the War, he has been conducting a School for colored orphans in Prince George's County, Maryland. Has now, he says, 60 Scholars and has educated more than 200 since the school began. I paid him two years ago \$5.00, and before that some. Follen and myself gave him \$5 just now, & he has gone to Dr. Leedom's.

July 11: Sunday.

We have taken in a great deal of fine hay, excellent hay would be better, the past week, and some grain. We have about 8 acres of grain, wheat 6, Rye two, Oats 3.

"Home Rule" has been defeated by the election in England, for the present.

I have been very busy, directing and overseeing the men in the hay and grain fields, in practicing a little and in answering numerous correspondents. My "Statistics," still excite much attention and bring me favorable consideration.

"Mother" (wife) seems somewhat better. Follen was at a big picnic yesterday in Norristown, made up pretty well of our relations, the children of Hannah Evans, who married Dr. Joseph Blackfan, and the two daughters of John Evans, her brother (Mrs. David Paxson and Mrs. Abrams).

Jawood Lukens and his wife, our daughter Susan, went yesterday morning from Phila. to the Falls of Niagara, to be away till Thursday evening. Took with them our grand daughter Frannie Yocom.

Letter from Dr. Walter of Solebury. Rec'd. a very complimentary letter from him, on my Statistics. Dr. Mary Hallowell's letter, a very pleasant letter on my "Statistics"; [she] has profited by them. Rec'd. letter from Dr. Fordyce Barker of New York, very complimentary, [is] just going to Europe.

July 15: Thursday.

Palp. 6 hours on 10<sup>th</sup>, 6 hours on 15<sup>th</sup>. Both times took 20 grs. Bro. Pot. & repeat in 2 hours; did not do much, if any perceptible good. Took morph. ¼ the last time, 2 hours before it went off.

July 16: Friday.

Have taken in a great deal of hay & grain the past 10 days.

July 17: Saturday.

Had much to do today. First went to John J. Corson's office to take a mortgage. Just as I got to his office was attacked by palpitation, 8 ½ A.M. I then went up to Corson St. to look at the property. Thought I should be quite safe in loaning \$1200 dollars on it. The palp. lasted me till I got home at 1 P.M.. Just as I walked up to the house it passed off in an instant, and I was well. Took nothing to relieve it while it was on. Strange as it is, I can get along with it pretty well, if I have some thing to interest me, some business that keeps me going. When it occurs at night or in the evening and I lie down, I am very uncomfortable.

July 20: Tuesday.

Today besides other duties, I have been one of the appraisers of Mary (Lentz) Corson's Estate at her home, and on the 21<sup>st</sup> at Norristown.

July 21: Wednesday.

We could have finished today, Wednesday, only that the Rev'd. John McAtee, who is Executor, and who has secured some thousands of dollars to himself by the will, had not some of the papers with him, but wanted us to praise them on his word, and I would not do it. So we will have to meet again tomorrow.

July 22: Thursday.

Was taken with palp. before breakfast; said nothing; went with Follen to Consho. Just as I got home after bringing Frannie & children from Sp. Mill, it went off; [was] just 2 hours on.

July 25: Sunday.

In looking over the Transactions of the American Medical Association this morning, July 25, 1886, I find that the following list comprises all the persons who were Permanent Members in 1847:

1. Austin Flint, Sen., 1847, N. York;



- |                       |   |                        |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------|
| 2. Hiram Corson ,     | “ | Plymouth Meeting;      |
| 3. N. S. Davis,       | “ | Chicago;               |
| 4. Alonzo Clark ,     |   | N. York;               |
| 5. Lewis P. Bush,     |   | Del.;                  |
| 6. Blakerman, Wm. N., |   | New York;              |
| 7. Bishop, Timothy,   |   | N. Haven, Connecticut; |
| 8. Ashmead, Wm.,      |   | Phil[adelphia];        |
| 9. Hyde, Fred.,       |   | Cortland, N. York;     |
| 10. Lindsley, Harry,  |   | Washington, D.C.;      |
| 11. Parrish, Jos.,    |   | Burlington, N.J.;      |
| 12. Stillé, Alfred,   |   | Phila.;                |
| 13. Wood, James R.,   |   | New York.              |

In 1848, the following:

- |                         |        |          |
|-------------------------|--------|----------|
| 1. Coch, Thos.,         | 1848   | N. York; |
| 2. Hatfield, Nathan,    | [1848] | Phila.;  |
| 3. Sayres, Lewis Albert | 1848   | N. York; |
| 4. Harvey               |        | .        |

July 27: Tuesday.

Yesterday, sent away a number of letters and postals; got three, one of them from Dr. T. J. Hutton of Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Poor hay weather. Follen returned from Cape May last evening.

My nephew, Consul General Thomas Adamson, at a fete given at Panama on July 14<sup>th</sup> presided over by the French Consul, made a brief speech, which is published in a Panama paper, rec'd. by me today and which was sent by him. It is a very credible speech, complimentary to France as a Nation and to the wives and daughters of France, for their thrift, their economy, the inspiration which they create in their sons and brothers to uphold the honor and maintain the integrity of the Republic.

July 28: Wednesday.

I sent letter to Judge Boyer, with a copy of the “Statistics” and today rec'd. a letter from him, complimentary to me & honorable to himself. It will be, it [is] already in the Letter Book, which Daughter Frannie gave me yesterday. It is the first letter. I put it in there because I had just rec'd. it, and the Book, from Frannie, and wished to see if I could use the book.

July 29: Thursday.

Rec'd. 4 letters. One letter from F. W. Dickinson, Springfield, Mass.; one from Dr. Curtis Smith, Aurora, Indiana; one from Dr. Forwood, Darlington, Maryland. These last two in relation to the “Statistics” and my other medical writings. One from Dr. Kerlin, Sup't of Institution for “Feeble Minded Children.”

Wife went in the carriage with Follen to stay with daughter Frannie S. Day at Germantown, Phila. Co. [I] visited three patients today. 3 P.M. [Wrote] letters to Dr. Ruschenberger & Dr. T. J. Hutton.

Mary and self engaged in transferring the letters which I have had pinned in this book, to the letter book sent me by Frannie.

Sent, this morning, a copy of "Statistics" to Dr. Ruschenberger, U.S. Navy, Phila.; one also to Dr. T. J. Hutton, Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

Mother & Follen went this morning to Frannie's at Germantown; mother will stay till Sunday. Mary and myself felt lonely at dinner and now again this evening on the porch.

July 30: Friday.

7 P.M. Have had two short palpitations today; one at one P.M., less than 5 minutes; another at 6 ½ P.M., about 5 minutes. It is fearfully hot and sultry this evening.

Got seven pages of letter from Dr. Colvin of Clyde, N. York, today, about my "Statistics." Agrees with me. Is in gt. earnest. Has had more than 2500 labors and only one death.

July 31: Saturday.

It was fearfully warm & sultry last night until 3 o'clock this morning, when it began to rain. Hearing it thunder, I got up at 3 o'clock and turned the water from the cistern, for fear the troughs were dirty, and to keep out the warm water.

5 A.M. Got up at 5, called Caleb, helped Matt in with the horses, who were in the field, that is, I looked on and Matt drove them up. Now will write to my dear wife, before breakfast.

August 5: Thursday.

This shows how I wrote to my dear wife, was called off and did not write. She came home on First-day, the next day, with Follen and Mary, who drove down early and by now had their mother and Lillie Bacon both here. "Mother" stood the ride well, the word "stood" meaning bore.

Yesterday Lillie went down to Spring Mill with Mary when she went to bring Follen home. She is a fine girl of 22 years, large and good-looking.

We have finished our grain harvest. It was abundant.

August 11: Wednesday.

Had a palp. of only a few minutes on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Have written & rec'd. many letters within the present week. My "Statistics" are still producing a little excitement. The "Am. Med. Association Journal" has an Editorial censuring me feebly.

Dr. DeLaskie Miller, Chairman of the obstetrical section of the International American Congress to convene next year, wishes me to prepare a paper for his department. He has seen my "Statistics" and says, "the paper contains statements and hints which should be kept before the public."

Follen, Ida and Helen his cousins, went to Boston, Monday morning, 9<sup>th</sup>, and will go from thence to see Dr. Maulsby, Surgeon of the Navy, and his wife who are at Bar Harbor, and then to Cape Ann to where Helen's husband, Mr. Hovenden, the Artist, is painting the portrait of a gentleman.

August 15: Sunday.

Did not sleep the last night at all. Slept about 2 hours after dinner. Read and wrote a great deal today. Copied many pages of "Transactions" of 1877-8-9, &c., in relation to my doings before the State Society, in relation to getting women doctors, in hospitals for Insane, as physicians.

August 22: Sunday.

One hour after sunset, Therm. 48°. I forgot to look when I rose at sunrise. I rode a great deal last week; did some practice. Brother William seemed poorly. He is evidently breaking down slowly, was 80 years of age on the 8<sup>th</sup> of this month. Have had some good, complimentary letters this past week.

Have rec'd. circulars respecting the New Hospital at Ercildoune, of which I am one of the Advisory Committee.

I have been engaged nearly an hour in transferring letters from my book (with a spring) to my Letter Book. Breakfast [is] announced.

August 23: Monday.

Palp at 6 ½ P.[M.]. This attack lasted till after midnight, in all about 6 hours.

August 24: Tuesday.

Very well now; pretty busy; still receive letters commendatory of my Statistics. It is quite astonishing to me what an interest has been awakened against the prevailing fashion in cities particularly of washing out the womb, after labor, with antiseptic injections, so called.

September 1: Wednesday.

We have had a few very hot days, but this morning opened clear and cold. I say cold, although the thermometer was only down to 56.

When wife had come down in the morning, our "Woman Catherine" told her that "soon after she went to bed and had fallen asleep, she was awakened by a great shaking of the bed, which lasted a few minutes then ceased and after a while it began again and cont'd. awhile."

Follen and myself went to Consho. before 8 A.M. and there we found the morning papers containing column after column of accounts of an Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> Earthquake, which took place at 10 P.M. the evening before, at just 10 o'clock, the first shock and after an interval of a few minutes another. See Newspaper on next page.

Our cook, when we came down to breakfast, told us about the bed being shook, or shaken, so much. If she had not told us this till we had read of it in the papers and she had been told about it, I would scarcely believed it, for none of us heard it. I find by the newspapers, that it reached high up in the State of New York, and down to Texas, out to Cincinnati and Louisville, but we have seen no account of it from St. Louis. S. Carolina & part of Georgia were most disastrously visited. The destruction of houses in Charlestown was very great. On the opposite leaf I will put the "Philadelphia Press" with some account of it.

September 8: Wednesday.

Yesterday my niece Mrs. Adelaide Crawford and her daughter, Miss Sally, came to see us at noon; staid two hours. Wife was unable to sit up with them all the time because she had been pretty active all the forenoon and is accustomed to lie down after dinner; so we all prevailed her not to stay all the time. In the evening, just before sunset, my two nieces, Mrs. Hannah Richie and Mrs. Martha Styer, daughters of brother Alan W. Corson, called and paid a short visit.

I have had six cases of Diphtheria and one of Scarlet Fever within ten days. They have all been treated with Ice externally to the neck. I am expecting Dr. Carroll of Hatboro here, to take dinner with us at one o'clock, after which I will take him to the Medical County [County Medical Society] meeting at Norristown.

During the leisure time of the past two days. I have been making a catalogue, or list, of my Medical Publications, and lapping them up in rolls, and marking them so that when I want to refer to any thing in them, that I can readily find it.

2 P.M. Dr. Carroll has not come, so I am ready to hie me to the meeting of the Med. Soc.

September 11: Saturday.

All day I have been at home, reading, writing letters, occasionally sitting with wife on the piazza to rest and talk. It has passed pleasantly.

The little girls, Annie and Mary Cresson, Tacie's daughters, our grand children, came from Norristown with me Saturday and have been enjoying themselves finely all day, playing with our 15 year old girl, Annie Himian [Himmeian]; a nice girl she is too. Follen, Mary and their mother and myself have all been at home today.

September 13: Monday.

A beautiful morning. I got up before the sun. Temp 53°, and as there was some rain last evening and the sun has risen, and not a cloud visible, it is a fresh and pleasant morning. I will take Follen to Consho. on his way to the City; then [go] to Norristown with the children; then to see Brother William, who has just passed his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, and is now not well.

September 14: Tuesday.

Visited several patients. Brought daughter Frannie from the train, this morning at 9 o'clock, to spend the day. She had a pleasant visit to her mother and left here at 4 P.M. to go home.

September 15: Wednesday.

Two weeks ago I had palp. 6 hours.

September 16: Thursday.

Today at 7 ½, just after I left with Follen for Consho., he on his way to Phila., I was struck with palp. It cont'd. six hours. I read and wrote much in that time.

September 19: Sunday.

Mary and Tacie went to N. Hope yesterday, to return Monday. Frannie and Richard are here today, also Thos. Yocom.

I have been busy, reading, and writing letters. Mother [is] as well as usual. Have just finished a letter to Joseph, 8 ½ P.[M.].

September 20: Monday.

Letter from Dr. Guyn of Galveston, Texas, thanking me for the "Statistics," and showing me that he is in accord with me; also sent me two pamphlets with his articles.

Letter from Dr. Brinton, to show me that my articles on Cerebral Disease, "a case of Disease," had attracted the attention of physicians, and enclosing a letter from Dr. M. in Minnesota, speaking in praise of my writings and asking him to get me to publish a "Book on Practice."

Don't forget to answer Miss Harvey.

September 23: Thursday.

Have been very busy this week going to Norristown every other day to see brother Wm. (sick) and seeing patients and writing letters in reply to rec'd. ones.

September 24: Friday.

Went with Follen to Consho.; then to Esq. Smith's to get rents; then over Schuylkill to Dr. McKenzie; then over the hills to the Cress Farm; then through the woods on the Spring Mill Tavern Farm to look for Black Snake Root; then up to Conshohocken and via Sp. Mill and Barren Hill to Ganan's [Gannon's ?] to see a Diphtheria patient; then up to Plymouth; stopped to leave a letter for Mr. Hovenden and while talking with Ida Corson, my niece in Brother George's old homestead (at 11 ½ A.M.), leaning back in an arm chair, was struck with palpitation. (So strange that I so often get it as I sit in a low arm chair and recline against the back). It is now 4 P.M. and I have it still, but I have been down to my Conshohocken land to see Matt at work. It is still battering. I was just going to write the word "away," when I felt a peculiar warmth go all over my body, and I knew it was over. Now the pulse which was battering away 176 times per minute, now goes on at 76.

In the evening about 8 o'clock while reading, all of us sitting around the table, palpitation occurred again, and cont'd. till I went to bed, at 9 ½ P.M. Slept but little in the night; was quite uncomfortable.

September 25: Saturday.

Read till breakfast came, 7 A.M. Follen, Mary & self went to Consho. Got letter at the P.O. from Joseph [and a] note from Susan to come see one of her girls; went to Elm St. to get some money promised me; got it; went to Susan's, Mary and I, from there to Norristown to see "Uncle Wm.," Brother Wm.; made a deposit of money in 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank; came back to Wm.'s office; then met Mrs. Dr. Holstein & Mrs. Wm. B. Roberts. Mrs. H. wished me, if possible, to come to a surprise party to her sister, Mrs. Cadwalader Evans, at 5 P.M. I promised "to try to come." Then went in to see Wm., but his friends Walter H. Cooke and Robert Iredell were there, and after we had all talked a few minutes, I was struck with palp., and without saying anything about it, quietly withdrew into the front office, and wrote a note to Mrs. Dr. Holstein that I could not be present at the surprise. Then 11 A.M., came with Mary, who in the mean time had a tooth extracted, to Tacie's and from there home by noon.

The palp. cont'd. till 2 P.M. I was very uncomfortable lying on the lounge, so went into the office and began writing. Soon I became absorbed, almost forgot my turbulent heart, and suddenly it left.

After the palp. left me, I cleaned up my table, which was a medley of books, pamphlets, loose papers, &c., &c. While I was at it, came Geo. Corson & wife, the latter needed med. Prescribed for her; engaged a big car-load of coal of George.

Took all my minerals, which had been collected for a few weeks and were stuck about the office, down to the Cabinet [in] the school house and disposed them the best I could, there hardly being a place for them.

Wrote Dr. Traill Green, and also sent some pamphlets to him for his son, Dr. Green. The pamphlets were sent me by the physicians in different parts of the Country who were pleased with [mine].

October 1: Friday.

Today at 11 A.M., palp. suddenly struck me and held on for seven hours. During that time I wrote and read a great deal. I almost expect it because I had not slept much on Wednesday night, and had been at a reception to Dr. Shakespeare [E. O. Shakespeare] (who had recently returned from a long European and Asiatic tour, to investigate the Cholera) at the Bellevue Hotel, Broad & Walnut, Phila., and did not get home and to bed till midnight. Loss of sleep brings it.

October 4: Monday.

Yesterday I wrote six foolscap pages of an article on *Cimicifuga*<sup>xxx</sup> in Chorea, to be published in the "Medical and Surgical Reporter," the Editor having written me on Saturday for it. Have been unable to write any today for want of time.

October 8: Friday.

After a busy forenoon, Mary and I went to Norristown to see "Uncle Wm.", stopped at Tacie's with some things her mother sent her, then went to nephew John J. Corson's office on business; then to George Lenzie's Photograph establishment for Mary's Photos taken a week ago. George Lenzie is married to my niece, Isabella Corson, Brother Joseph's daughter, and I met her there. She does the finishing of all the pictures.

October 10: Sunday.

Noon. Have been very busy this morning writing on St. Vitus' Dance and the value of *Cimicifuga Racemosa*, black snake root, in its treatment; broke off at 10 o'clock and went to Hicksite Meeting; a very good place for some persons to sleep and for me to think about my subject. Dr. E. C. Leedom sat near to me, and when "meeting broke" said to me, "we have been coming to this meeting for a period of more than seventy years and ought therefore to be pretty good Christians." With which I agreed, provided that the real article was retailed there. He is only one year younger than myself.

Having had dinner, my gd. son Thomas Yocom & self are preparing for a ride to get some facts for my paper.

October 12: Tuesday.

We thrashed during the last 3 working days

<u>Wheat 120 Bus.</u>	<u>Rye 15 ½ Bus.</u>	<u>Oats 151 bushels</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>
\$9.60	\$1.55	\$6.04 = \$17.19
	Deduct for keeping 2 horses on Sunday	<u>.60</u>
		\$16.59

Palp. 5' at 6 A.M.

October 13: Wednesday.

Palp. at 8 A.M.; lasted till 6 P.M., 10 hours.

October 17: Sunday.

During the last week I did a great deal of medical practice. Visited Brother William several times. ("Mother") wife [is] pretty comfortable, but does too much at moving around the house, overseeing every thing that is done, or being done.

Daughter Susan Lukens and her husband, Jawood Lukens, went to Jefferson Barracks, near St. Louis, last Sunday to see Joseph & family; have remained all the week; will, I expect, be home tomorrow morning.

I attended Orthodox (Friends) Meeting today. Have finished and enveloped my Essay of Cimicifuga Racemosa, black snake root, as a remedy in Chorea, St. Vitus' Dance, to send to the Med. & Surg. Reporter tomorrow.

October 22: Friday.

At 3 A.M. (after lying awake for one hour after a sleep of 5 hours) palp. occurred; lasted me till 12 noon. I did not go with Follen to Consho., but after breakfast wrote and read till ten, then lay on the lounge till dinner time. As soon as I rose for dinner it went off.

At one o'clock rode half way to Phila., to see Dr. Bunting. He was away. Read "Flints Practice" half an hour, then went to "Greene Lane," and was paid \$19.50 by Geo. Clawder, a med. bill; then on my way home stopped at Harry Thomas' to see my old patrons, then home; was pretty wear.

Have just finished posting my accounts at which I have spent a few hours the past few days as leisure from other duties occurred (9 A.M.)

November 1: Monday.

We heard on Saturday of the death of my old, long-time friend Dr. George Maulsby, Surgeon in the United States Navy.

This morning Follen went to Washington to the funeral which will take place today at 2 ½ P.M. Dr. Maulsby, son of Samuel Maulsby of "Plymouth Meeting," so the village at Plymouth around the old Quaker Meeting is called, was one of my playmates at school, though younger than I; was also my companion after we left school. After I graduated as physician, I went in the spring of 1828, to board with his son Jonathan, who was then keeping store at Plymouth, and then began the practice of medicine. George used often to come to my room, and be with me and look into the books, and as he had

grown up without a trade, his father having a large fertile farm, and he much engaged on it till he was nearly of age, but after a course of education at the Quaker School at Westtown, he became pleased with the study of some of the medical books and at my suggestion concluded to enter upon the study with the preceptor with whom I had studied, Dr. Richard Davis Corson, a half brother of his father Samuel Maulsby, they being from the same mother. So he went to New Hope to the same office in which I had so faithfully toiled, and then entered the University of Pennsylvania the following Fall., the intermediate summer being spent at N. Hope in study, he graduated M.D. in the Spring of -----.

He, the same or coming summer, located for "practice" at Pittston, N. Jersey, above Flemington. After being there, I know not how long, he left and went to Taylorsville in Bucks Co. That is the place where Washington crossed the Delaware River in the night, preparatory to attacking the British at Trenton, during the Revolutionary War. I think George did not stay at Pittston more than a year, if so long. While at Taylorsville, he studied with direct view to entering the Navy. He was very desirous to have a body to dissect, so as to have the skeleton and some good "wet preparations." So, one night he and Dr. Corson's son David Ramsey Corson and another whom I forgot, drove away to the Bucks Co. Alms House, go[t] the body of a color'd man from the grave, and made for home. They had gotten but a short distance from the place when their wagon broke, so as to compel them to borrow one. With much difficulty they reached New Hope before day-light, and the next night, George got it down to his office at Taylorsville. During leisure hours from practice, he busied himself with his subject. After he had the different parts prepared, he suspended some of them by strings, here and there to the roof, in the little garret above. One summer day there came a furious rain and thunderstorm, which ripped off the roof and scattered his dried arms & legs over the meadow along the river, but as the people expected a doctor to have such things and supposed that he got them while in Philad., no fuss was made about it.

In 1838, Dr. Richard Corson and myself went to Washington and staid nearly a week in order to get an Order from the President (Van Buren) or the Sec. of the Navy, I forgot which. I only know that we saw the President on the subject. Hon. Muhlenberg of Berk[s] Co, Congressman, and Hon. John B. Sterigere of this County aiding us, we obtained the order; George passed the examining Board and was made assistant Surgeon. From that time he was at Sea, with intervals every two or three years, in which he had land-stations, at marine hospitals, Navy Yards, &c.

November 7: Sunday.

Sickness and Death of Doctor William Corson. About seven or eight weeks ago, he came to see us on Sunday evening, as was his practice occasionally. When he was going away, and after he had bidden farewell to Mary and her mother on the porch, he said to me as we walked towards his carriage, "I feel so weak in my limbs. I don't feel in any other way that there is any thing the matter with me, except that I have not much appetite." When we got to the carriage he talked quite a time pleasantly and then drove away. His friends had noticed for a year or more that he was thinner, was losing flesh, but still he was practicing daily, though his nephew Dr. Ellwood M. Corson, son of Brother George who has been deceased several years (as has also his good wife Martha), knew he was failing steadily. I do not know when I have known any man to enjoy life



better than William did during the past year, indeed for many years. Ellwood attended to the heavy end of the practice, and though Wm. did a good deal, it was no more than the proper recreation for him. In the morning after taking breakfast, he would sit down and read the morning papers, merely breaking off now and then to prescribe for a patient, and to receive the calls of his friends who were in the habit of calling to have a kind word with him, or to listen to the wants of some poor people who were accustomed to call and get solace and encouragement and help from him. The afternoon and evenings were spent in reading, a nap, a ride, conversation with callers, &c., &c.

After the time spoken of when he spoke to me of his weakness, he continued on as before, enjoying himself, sitting in his easy-chair, without a pain, without nausea, pleasant, cheerful with his friends, not conscious of change from health and enjoyment, save that weakness and that he was taking less food, until about one week before his death, when he felt when rising from his chair that he was slightly confused, or that his sight was slightly obscured, and that he would like to sit again. But still he would take a ride for a few squares, his faithful "Hugh" driving for him. It was though quite apparent to himself and to others that he was weaker from day to day, but still every morning at 8 o'clock he was dressed and in his arm-chair in the back office, in the bay-window, reading with interest the political prospects of his warm personal friend, the one-legged General Beaver, who had gallantly gone into the War well, and came out of it a cripple, and who was then a candidate for the Governorship of the State. And let me add here is elected. By the Monday, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, preceding the day of election which was to be Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, he felt himself so weak that he had some doubts about his ability to go to the polls; he had not ridden out for a day or two. His nephew Dr. Ellwood Corson had gone to Washington, D.C. to the funeral of his Uncle, Surgeon George Maulsby, U. S. Navy. So when calls came for the doctor to go here or there or for medicine, he prescribed but did not go out. In the afternoon, he, with "Hugh's" aid walked down through his long yard and back. He seemed to be testing his ability, so as to see whether, if he should not fail more before tomorrow Election Day, he could go to the poll to vote. That afternoon he did not go up-stairs to bed, but lay on the lounge in the back office in the evening until nearly 10 P.M. Then Mr. Brown, his tenant, the Senatorial Candidate and the faithful hired man, "Hugh," helped him up to bed, which was about as much as the two could do. The next morning, Election Day, I saw him in bed just after 8 o'clock. I noticed quite a change in him. He had a death-like face as he lay there asleep. He was sleeping calmly then, having had a restless night, an unusual thing. I spoke to him. He awoke and on being asked "how are you this morning William?" he answered, "I feel pretty well," then went to sleep again, having had pretty early in the morning a suppository of 1 gr. opium. He had spoken to Col. James Boyd, an old friend, about a week before, of a desire to convey to Ellwood his interest in the books and other property belonging to the partnership. So I spoke to Wm. about it, and then got Col. Boyd to draw up an agreement by which William assigned his share, and by which Ellwood agreed to do certain things. Previous to this, Wm. had told Ellwood that he would not consider himself a partner after the first day of October, as he was not able to do much in practice; so the agreement referred to that date as closing it. He signed the paper. After I had spoken to him about it, and after the signing, I re-read it and he expressed his satisfaction with it. The Election Day wore away without material change in his condition. I left at noon and returned with Follen & staid during the evening. At 3 o'clock in the night,

Mr. Brown came to his bed-side and told him that the returns showed that his friend General Beaver was elected Governor. He had awakened him to tell him. He replied, "that is glorious." Mr. Brown then said, "I, too, am elected, I think: "oh! that is glorious too," he said.

When I saw him this morning, I saw a great change in him, since yesterday, but he was sleeping so gently; his face was so natural, so expressive of all absence of suffering, that we all felt that it could be wrong to disturb him. After an hour or so of being at his bed-side, I did call his name and he opened his eyes somewhat and made an effort at speech, but I could not catch the words. Dr. Ellwood Corson, Mrs. & Mr. Brown, Hugh, Dr. Wiley, Dr. Lewis W. Read and my niece Mrs. Hannah Schults (whose sons were killed in the War, one at Antietam, the other at Gettysburg) were about the room, in and out, as occasion required. My daughter Mary and myself had expected to go to the funeral of mother's sister, Mary's Aunt Susan Foulke, who died only a few days ago. Seeing Wm. so ill, I concluded not to leave him longer than to return and send Mary to Phila. by herself. I did so and returned to Wm. after dinner. He lived until 2:35 or 4 P.M., breathing so quietly and calmly that we could not tell when life ceased. This was on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1886.

I have written the above today. Since William's death which occurred as already stated Wednesday [Thursday], 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:35 P.M., I have been daily at Norristown, with Ellwood, who has the arrangements for the funeral. I was only there an hour or two at a time. The funeral will take place tomorrow at 1 ½ P.M.

November 8: Monday.

Wife was not well enough to go with Mary and myself. At noon we went in the two horse carriage, our man "Matt" driving. We stopped at daughter Tacie's, where we found Frannie, and her Aunt Rebecca Corson. Tacie's husband Wm. L. Cresson had been sick several days, and was not able to go to the funeral. I left Mary and went on to William's house, 116 Main St. Afterwards sent "Matt" back for Mary, Frannie, Tacie & her daughter Carrie, and Rebecca.

It was only one o'clock when I reached his house, and already women were passing in to look at their deceased friend, the man who for 55 years had ministered to them and the people of Norristown in sickness and aided many of them in their poverty. From that time the stream kept on. Until the services began hundreds and hundreds of sober, serious men and women passed around the coffin. The Medical Society of our County and many Philadelphia physicians were present, nearly filled the offices after viewing the body of their friend; several of them had been his students.

All the arrangements for the funeral had been planned by Dr. Ellwood M. Corson, his partner for many years, Brother George Corson's son, but they would not act on them without my approval. Rev'd. Gibson of the Episcopal Church, to which brother Wm. sometimes went, though he adhered strongly to the Quaker, Hicksite Quaker, principles. He read the ordinary stereotyped Service at the house.

The Medical Society had had a meeting on Saturday and passed Resolutions, one of which was that they would attend the funeral in a body.

I had chosen the "Pall Bearers" from among his special friends and old acquaintance, viz., Drs. Isaac Newton Evans, John Schrack, J. O. Knipe, S. M. Wiley, [Charles] Mann, P. Y. Eisenberg.

He was buried in Dr. Lewis W. Read's lot in Montgomery Cemetery (though some years ago he had himself bought a lot there for himself and brother Joseph's family), because Dr. Read was very anxious as well as the Hurst family with whom he had lived for more than 30 years, the children had grown up with him. So it was thought best by me to let him be buried with those with whom he had spent his last half century almost. Jean Read (wife of Dr. Read) and her mother, both of whom he loved so much, were already there. To that place then he was borne, a vast multitude lining the streets as the procession of a hundred carriages, the papers say, passed along. Rev'd. Gibson pronounced the usual service, and he was shut from our sight for ever. Those who had in charge giving notice in the newspapers of the funeral, had inserted without my knowledge, the time and that Rev'd. Gibson of the Episcopal Church would perform the service of that Church. This no doubt prevented the Quaker preachers from being present and preaching. But as William paid for a pew in the Church, and some times attended, and frequently had pleasant social intercourse with Rev'd. Gibson, it was as well to have him, but it need not have been advertised. Then his Quaker friends would have come and could have relieved themselves if needed, or desired by them.

Cousin Alfred Baker [Blaker] and his wife came and staid all night with us. Richard Day & Frannie, James Yocom and Follen, Jawood Lukens and Susan, and Tacie and Mary were all at the funeral. I have received letters from Dr. Traill Green, Dr. Alice Bennett and others of Wm.'s friends, speaking of his kindness and their love for him.

November 16: Tuesday.

Since the funeral, I have been very much engaged in many ways, and what is strange, though I had the palpitation nearly every week before, I have had none now for 3 weeks today. It is now 3 P.M., and I have written letters and mailed five of my pamphlets on "Chorea and its Treatment by *Cimicifuga Racemosa*" since noon. All the forenoon was practicing and attending to other business.

Papers about "Uncle William, [and] other papers [are] on next leaf, and more "Genealogical Record" of Corson Family. A paper by Dr. E. M. Furey, a young man who was in little favor among doctors there, when William, seeing that, and being pleased with him, invited him to his house and was very kind to him, and Dr. Furey became devoted to him, visited him often.

November 19: Friday.

Since Tuesday [Friday], Oct. 22, I have had no palpitation, which is rather singular, considering what I have passed through in this time, 26 days, because before that I had had attacks quite frequently for some time. Today, while sitting for a moment in a patient's house, it began suddenly and very strongly, so as to make me feel for a moment very hot all over the body and a strong giddiness almost, but in a minute I walked across the room to examine my patient and no one discovered that anything had happened in my system. I came home, busied myself a brief time in the office, when a man came to see me about B. Jones small farm, which he wished to buy. I became interested in the matter, and as soon as he left me, the palp. went off.

Have had a good many letters and pamphlets since last writing. 4 letters today, one from Mrs. Dr. Henry Frazer Campbell of Augusta, Georgia; one from my nephew "Col. Joseph Corson Read," Fernandina, Florida; one from "Tacie;" one from Dr. John V.

Shoemaker, asking me to write a practical, medical article for his "Bulletin." He had read my recently published article on Chorea and its Treatment with Cimicifuga Racemosa, Black Snake Root, and complimented me on that and my other writings.

With Mrs. Campbell's letter today came my pamphlet on Measles and another on Food for Infants, which I had sent her. She professed to be greatly pleased with them. See her letter in the large Letter book of 1886.

#### Death of Miss Susan Foulke

Death of my Sister-in-law, Miss Susan Foulke, sister to my wife, Nancy Foulke Corson. She had boarded with Mrs. Picot, at Oak-Lane on the Bound-Brook R. Road, 10 miles from Philad. Scarcely so much for several years but in September, they moved into Phila., Mount Vernon St. 1002, where she was taken suddenly ill [on] Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> and died on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9 A.M., with much suffering all these days. She was buried in our enclosure at North Laurel Hill, in the end belonging to Jesse Foulke, her brother and Robert R. Corson, her brother-in-law. My brother William was so ill that day that I could not leave him. Wife was not able to go. Follen and Mary were there, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>. Follen had gone to the funeral of Dr. Maulsby when she was sick, not dreaming of her being so ill, and just as he reached her home, when he returned, she breathed her last. She left an Estate of about \$1400, which will be divided among her brothers and sisters and children, Robert R. Corson has administered.

November 20: Saturday.

Nothing unusual in our family affairs or in my business, save that I have been called to two obstetric cases in the night time, and sent them to Drs. Leedom and Highley.

Yesterday evening, I sold our Benny Jones farm, for \$5400, with the 4 acres of woodland attached to it, \$100 less than it cost us in high times.

November 22: Monday.

Conard Smith paid me \$300 as a binder of the bargain for the farm; will pay \$5100 more April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1887, when he is to have the deed.

November 23: Tuesday.

Practiced all afternoon; went to the Eastern Hospital to see Dr. Chase, and unite with him in measures to save John Wilson from being hung for murder. He is a simple minded man

November 25: Thursday.

Thanksgiving Day. We have been expecting Son Joseph for the past week or more, knowing that he had been relieved from Jefferson Barracks and was only staying till his Successor should arrive. Today he came in the 8 A.M. train on the Pennsylvania Schuylkill R. Road, and after Follen left me at Consho. to go to Phila., as usual, I waited for Joseph who had sent a telegram to Follen that he would be up.

Joseph arrived at Conshohocken station of the S. V. Pennsylvania Rail Road at 9:35 A.M. I was there to meet him. Follen, little Mary, Joseph's daughter and myself all were at the Station at 8 A.M. as he was expected in that train, but their train from St. Louis was three hours behind time, so he could not make that one. I took him up to

Jawood Lukens' were little Mary was, having come up from her School in West Philad. last evening. The little girl came bouncing to meet him, and flung her arms about his neck & kissed him in high glee. It would be surprising to see how happy she is away so far from her parents, were it not that she is so accustomed to move from one place to another every few years; born in Georgia, she soon went to Plattsburg, on the Shore of Lake Champlain; after two years there, away 3000 miles to Yuma, 4100 miles Jos. was allowed mileage for. After 4 years there, or nearly four, East again 2000, or 2500 miles to Jefferson Barracks in Missouri, and her four years there have just ended, and her father assigned to the Department of the Colombia, 3000 miles away again. She will stay at her School, until next summer, in Phila.

Then I brought them both home, where his mother received him lovingly.

While waiting at 8 A.M. at the Schuylkill Valley Pennsylvania Station at Conshohocken for Joseph, the palp. struck me while reading a letter from Dr. Colvin of Clyde, New York. [It] cont'd. till just one o'clock, when Follen came from the City. [It] was off till five and I was as well as could be, then it came again. After that until bed-time, I had a number of office call[s] to which I attended. The palp. continued till midnight.

November 26: Friday.

Up early; feel pretty well, after a palpitation of 12 hours.

Eight o'clock P.M. Frannie came up this morning. Joseph and myself took Follen to the Train, and brot Frannie back. After dinner, Joseph, Frannie, Mary Corson, and Mary Carter Corson, Joseph's daughter, went to Jawood and Susan Lukens to tea. I visited several patients the forenoon, none this P.M.

Rec'd. a letter from Wm. McDermott, cashier of the First National Bank of Conshohocken this evening, in relation to trying to save John Wilson from being hung. The day has been fixed. Dr. Furey was here two days ago, to read to me an article which he had prepared for publication in the newspaper on the same subject. I saw Dr. Chase on the subject a few days ago. His counsel also called on me to do something in the matter.

November 28: Sunday.

I had a letter yesterday from Dr. Dibrell of Little Rock, Arkansas, commending my medical writings and thanking me for the last paper on *Cimicifuga Racemosa* and saying that he had been trying Squibb's Fluid Ext., but without any good result. He wishes me to send him some of Dr. Baker's. He has failed, no doubt, because of the smallness of his doses. I shall so write to him.

Had a letter the past week from Dr. Colvin of Clyde, New York, eight pages, on the *Cimicifuga* paper and on vs [blood-letting] in Puerperal Convulsions. He goes strongly for the use of the *Cimicifuga* in Chorea, and for vs in convulsions, as recommended by me in my "Statistics."

December 4: Friday.

Joseph leaves for Ft. Bridger where his wife is, and after a week there, will go on to his Station. He left us yesterday at noon. I took him to the train and at 1:43 P.M. he left Conshohocken for Phila. He expected that his daughter Mary, who went down with

her Aunt Susan Lukens to get some necessities, would meet him, and he would take her to her school at Mrs. Mitchell's near "Georges' Hill." He took her out in the evening, then went to his Sister Frannie Day's, and at 9:45 took the Express for Chicago, and on to Fort Bridger.

December 5: Sunday.

Palpitation. On Sunday morning at 8 o'clock it attacked me, cont'd. till 8 P.[M.]. Thos. Hovenden & Helen, Jay & Susan were here to dine with Joseph and us. We had dined with them a few days ago. I could not be with them today.

December 9: Thursday.

Rec'd. a postal card from him [Joseph] this morning at 8 o'clock, at Conshohocken P. Office, written on the cars at Crestline, Ohio; he states "that there was no snow there and not very cold." Here we have had a fierce snow storm, and the Thermometer at 12° Fahr. in the mornings.

Fine sleighing. A case of starvation of cattle by a farmer was reported to me today, on the farm of Mr. Hardberger, near Norriton Square. I took Geo. N. Corson's son with me from Norristown to investigate it, gave the man a few days to do better, without prosecution.

Had men filling the ice house today.

Visited a number of patients today.

December 22: Wednesday.

Since last writing, I have been very busy in practice as well as in other matters. There is in Norristown Jail, a small, young man named [John] Wilson, who has been condemned to be hung on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January for the murder of a Mr. Daley. The Jailer and others who have been near to him for months are firm in the belief that he is of unsound mind. I have twice been to see him, and was amazed to see that he seemed to have no realization of the enormity of his confessed crime, or the least dread of the ignominious fate which awaited him. Dr. Chase, physician of the hospital for the Insane, and my nephew Dr. Ellwood M. Corson of the Committee (appointed by the Com. on Lunacy) to visit the hospital frequently and have strict care to their well being, both have been convinced that he was not sane, and for some weeks we have quietly counseled in relation to the need to ask for a Commission to investigate the case. So last Saturday (18<sup>th</sup>), we united on something like the following appeal to Hon. B. M. Boyer, Judge of the Court:

To the Hon., &c.: "We believe that John M. Wilson under sentence of death, &c., has manifested symptoms of Insanity sufficient to justify the appointment of a Commission to investigate his case." Signed by us all. And it was then presented to the Court by Mr. [Cadwalader] Biddle, Secretary of the Board of Public Charities, who had been directed how to proceed by Gov. Pattison, who had rec'd. letters from Dr. Chase on the subject.

On Monday morning last, Judge Boyer refused to grant the Commission, the Board of Lunacy, a Com. created of 5 members of the Board of Public Charities, having presented to him a protest against the appointment, declaring that it was for their Com. to do what was needful, and that it was not the Governor's duty.

So thus far we failed. The newspapers are now criticizing the movement, and it seems likely the poor fellow will be hung.

Had two attacks in two days, altogether almost 12 hours. Otherwise have been very well.

“Mother” (wife) better, but still very much worried by hosts of small matters.

December 25: Saturday.

Christmas Day I staid at home nearly all day, but for several days had practiced much. In the City of Philad. and even in all the little towns in the Country, the most gaudy displays were made by Storekeepers days ago and yesterday, daughter Susan says the Streets were crowded more than she ever saw before.

For several days I rode and practiced a great deal, so as that I might rest yesterday. I did till nearly night. We had a nice quiet time, no visitors.

Mr. James Davis, Follen’s Virginia Friend, had sent us a large turkey, 14 partridges and a Virginia ham. We dined on the Turkey. Had a chicken & the partridges for breakfast, but had given six of them to our hired man, Matt Lewis.

December 26: Sunday.

Last night a young Swiss came here hunting work. He was cold & hungry; put him in warm office, gave him supper, a bed, and breakfast this morning. Sent him to a place.

[Was] at home nearly all day. Our woman went to see her sister, a neighbor, last evening, staid all night, and this morning came home a little demoralized by “drink.” Her daughter who also lives with us was greatly mortified.

Little grand daughter Mary Carter Corson came from daughter Susan’s to spend the day with us; a wonderfully smart interesting child, and though 10 years old [is] greatly taken up with her Christmas Doll.

Wife, or as we all call her, “Mother,” has been keeping house today, though she keeps house every day, sees to all that goes on, but today as our woman was not at work, she had a little more to see to. ‘Tis wonderful how much of managing she does. We can’t get her to take things more easily.

December 30: Thursday.

Letter from Joseph yesterday. According to his expectations, he will be in Portland, Washington Ty. this very evening. Ada he thought would be well enough to go with him. It is a great distance from us, but we hope they will have a nice time, think they will in summer time.

Little Mary and the Day and Yocom children, and the Cresson children, are having a fine time at Frannie Day’s. It is snowing wonderfully, but my sleighing days are over. How the snow calls back to mind the scenes of “Auld lang Syne,” when the snow fall brought out every conceivable kind of sled and sleigh, and hosts of young men and girls went sleighing from hotel to hotel and danced and had supper, &c. , thus spent the whole night.

## 1887

January 1: Saturday.

The First Day of Eighteen Hundred and Eighty Seven.

Rec'd. several New Year greetings: one from Professor Traill Green, M.D. of Lafayette College; [from] Professor Alfred Stillé, M.D. of University of Pa.; Emeritus Professor Henry H. Smith, M.D., University Pa.; Dr. Henry Frazer Campbell & wife of Augusta, Georgia.

January 7: Friday.

I have been very busy in Practice this far in the year.

My friend and neighbor Joseph Albertson died last Friday and was buried last Wednesday. I had known him all his life. He was the son of Alice Albertson, one of my school-mates.

Had a palpitation today for 2 hours nearly; was attacked in Norristown while sitting in my nephew's office. [It] cont'd. till after I had finished my business and gotten home.

January 8: Saturday.

Fine sleighing. Rode practicing till noon; then took Frannie Yocom to Norristown with me. Did some business there and returned before night.

January 9: Sunday.

Jawood Lukens and his wife (Susan, our daughter) and Mary Carter Corson, Joseph, and Ada's daughter, have just (10 A.M.) come up through a snow storm, and are all with ("Mother") wife & Follen and Frannie Yocom in the parlor.

January 13: Thursday.

Today at 2 P.M., John M. Wilson, the confessed Murderer of Daley of Germantown, or Chestnut Hill, was hanged in the Jail at Norristown. We made an effort to have his sentence commuted to "Imprisonment for life," but the Jury, "Committee on Lunacy," ordered by the Governor, reported that he was sane, and so we failed, though we still adhere to the conviction that he was of unsound mind. This Capital punishment is a horrible thing, a disgrace to our Century.

Crowds of people hung about Norristown today, hoping to get a sight of the "hanging." I have visited him twice in his cell, and I think he is of unsound mind. I was invited to be at the Execution, but of course declined.

I have been very busy in practice all this week. Have had no severe attacks of palpitation for a few weeks, but once.

Letter from Joseph today, from Portland, Oregon; expected to be in Fort Cour D'Lane [Coeur d'Alene], Idaho, before the letter would be rec'd. by me. Thinks it will be an agreeable place.

January 24: Monday.

Had a letter from Joseph. They are housed already, and he has begun work in the Fort, and has had outside patients already. He has sent to Follen for \$300, of his money, as he is about to buy half a block of ground in the town of "Spokane Falls," 25 miles



from the Fort, just where the little R. Road from the Fort joins the Northern Pacific R. R. He thinks there is great opportunity for speculation there.

There have been many things in the affairs of Germany, Austria, Russia, France and England, which intimate that the Spring will be the opening of War among these powers.

February 9: Wednesday.

I have been very busy since last writing, but [am] very well. No palp. since 7<sup>th</sup> of last month save a few minutes twice and once half hour. Yesterday I had a letter from Prof. H. C. Wood, asking me to let him have my narrative of my palpitation as a basis for a paper on nervous disease.

I sent a fresh paper on "Rhus Glabrum<sup>xxxi</sup> in the treatment of Stomatitis," to the Med. & Surg. Reporter a few days ago. "Will have an early in section," says the Editor.

February 10: Thursday.

Weather quite mild for several days. Wife & self went yesterday to Philad. She expects to stay a few days at Frannie's and Bertha's. I left her at the former place, then went to Follen, then with him to the office of the "Recorder of Deeds;" then to Dr. Morton's; afterwards to see Dr. Charles H. Thomas. At five 35 P.M. took the cars for home. Before we reached Spring Mill, was struck by palpitation at 6 P.M., lasted till 11 P.M.

February 21: Monday.

Rec'd. a letter from Dr. S. W. Dickinson of Marion, Va., last Friday, asking me for documents in relation to Insanity, as he has become a Trustee of an Asylum for the Insane, and knows but little in relation to the best modes of management. This morning I mailed him numerous documents, also a long letter and my report on the propriety of having women physicians for the Insane.

At 5 A.M. while lying awake in bed after a night of good, sound sleep, unbroken almost, I was struck with palpitation. I rose at 6, had breakfast at 7, then went at once to hunting the papers for Dr. Dickinson. Kept at getting them for him and mailing them, till 11 A.M., when it [the palpitation] passed away. I got so absorbed by my work, that I scarcely noticed my palpitation. Had I lain down, I would have been greatly uncomfortable. Thus it has always been. Getting deeply interested in reading and writing, I would be pretty comfortable. I took no medicine.

Pneumonia, Illness of Dr. Ellwood M. Corson, my nephew, son of Brother George. He was about ---- years of age, has practiced with brother. Ten days ago, Dr. Ellwood was suffering somewhat from a bad cold, was quite hoarse and febrile, but I saw him at his office accidentally, and did not see any thing serious in his symptoms. He went several miles of a drizzly, cold day, over bad roads, to see a patient. Next day, 12<sup>th</sup>, was not so well and staid at home, took some anodyne, &c. Sunday, was not so well. Dr. Lewis W. Read, his cousin, saw him [the next day] and regarded it as a bronchial affection. Dr. Read cont'd. to see him. I too saw him; he was expectorating mucus, such as is common in the mature stage of a cold, but he was in bed, feverish and very uncomfortable, no appetite and not much rest. Himself and Dr. Read had the case in hand, and I did not fear pneumonia, though I made scarcely any examination of the

respiration. Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup>, at 5 A.M., after a restless night, he was struck with a severe pain in the lower half of the right lung. Dr. Wiley, who lives across the street was called. He gave ½ gr. sulph. morph. by hypodermic syringe, over affected part. I saw him at 10 A.M., but Dr. Read had been with him as well as Dr. Wiley, and Dr. Read had been giving him 1/16 gr. morph., 5 grs. carbonate of ammonia, and 4 drops Tct. Digitalis, every 2 hours. He was heavily under the influence of the Anodyne, and the doctors not being present, I had to wait; but he had expectorated much rust-colored sputum and a great deal of glassy mucus, "red as blood," with fresh fluid blood. The med. was steadily given and, impatient as I was, I waited till 2 P.M., when the doctors came. Dr. Wiley took no part in prescribing. Dr. Read intended to continue his medicine every 2 hours and was confident that in four or five [days] with that alone he would be cured, though more anodyne should be given if needed to allay pain or procure sleep. He, for many years has refused "to bleed" any patients though I know of several whose lives would have been saved if he had done so.

I was in a dilemma. My faith in the life-preserving powers of judicious blood-letting in cases of pneumonia is great. Indeed in a real case of any severity, it is indispensable. That he would die if he trusted to this expectant plan, I felt very certain. I advocated the lancet without delay, but did not object to his mild medicine being cont'd. for the day. Dr. Read would not yield and the patient had to decide. His answer was prompt. "I will have Uncle Hiram's plan." Dr. Read "washed his hands of all responsibility," but staid until I bled him, which was on the moment. I put pillows & chair behind him and drew blood till he showed signs of fainting, looked "pale as ashes," and the pulse dropped from 112 to 96, and was weak. But there were only about 14 ounces of blood. In a few minutes the blood was covered with as buffy a coat as I have ever seen on blood. At bedtime another ½ gr. morph. was given hypodermically.

Yesterday [16<sup>th</sup>] I advised Dr. Wiley to only give 1/8 gr. morph., if the patient should call for more in the night, as had been the case for the past two nights, for he was very heavy today; and certainly must have had 1 1/3 grs. yesterday. So this morning only 1/8 was used. That satisfied him. Since the bleeding he has sweat day & night profusely; the pulse gradually falling from 96, to which it had come after the bleeding, down to 86 by 9 A.M. today, and the temp from 101 3/5 to 99° while the breathing was from 20 to 25 or more according to his condition of impatience, or nervousness. Directed 2 ½ grs. Calomel at 9 A.M., 2 ½ at 3 P.M., the prescription of Dr. Read, cont'd. Until this time, he has really had no food to speak of. Now ord[ered] ½ tumbler milk every 2 hours, if he can take so much. Before the Calomel was given at 9 A.M., and which was suggested by the act, he vomited a pint at least of green, bilious-looking watery fluid. Evening. Has sweat profusely all day; at 3 P.M. pulse 90, Temp 99°, Resp. 20; improving.

18<sup>th</sup>. I did not go up in the morning as I had thought him almost out of danger last evening. Was sent for at 10 A.M., because of distress in his eyes. I copy here the letter sent to me by Dr. Wiley.

Norristown, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, 1887

Dear Dr. Corson. Doctor Ellwood is not so well this morning. He did not sleep a moment through the night. He complains bitterly of fullness, distress and pain in the head, through the temples and over the eyes; has

electric flashes as soon as the eyes are closed. I proposed leeches, but Dr. Read will not hear of it, although Dr. Ellwood himself is anxious for them. His breathing is 20, temp. 99.5, pulse 90. He desires to see you as early as You can come.

Sincerely yours,  
S. N. Wiley.

I was there by 12 (noon) and found him much better, under the operation of  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. sulph. morph., hypodermically. I advised more food, broth, &c., &c. Morph only  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. more at bed time. The Read's med. had not been given since the day before, but as the Calomel had not operated, a rectal injection of warm water had been used effectively. To me, he then seemed free from danger. The glassy, bloody sputum was very greatly diminished after the blood-letting, and now there is none of it; the discharge is yellow & not glassy, and not much of it, but rarely coughs.

Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup>. Eight o'clock A.M. [Ellwood] is fine. Yesterday after or about 3 P.M., pulse was 83, Temp. 96° and Resp. 18. The Temp. being below normal some, two teaspoonfuls of whiskey were added to each half tumblerful of milk, some other food given and in the evening he was fine, was sitting up on a chair while the nurse made his bed.

Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup>. I did not get to see him but his sister Helen told me he was sitting up awhile reading the newspaper.

On Friday evening when Dr. W. and himself were feeling that the danger had passed, Dr. Wiley asked him what part of the treatment seemed to him to have done most good. "Was it," he asked, "the bleeding from the arm?" He replied, "the blood did not come from my arm, it came from here," laying his hand over his diseased lung. "I felt it coming from there." I doubt not that he did, for immediately after he had been laid down, and had recovered from his impending faintness, he said to me, "that will do good, I think." He felt the relief produced; and later he said, "I think hereafter no patient of mine will suffer for lack of being bled."

Monday, 21<sup>st</sup>. I had palpitation from 5 A.M. this day until 10 A.M. = 5 hours. So did not go up and have not heard from him, so think, he is still improving for Dr. Wiley said he would notify me of any change for worse.

February 24: Thursday.

All last night, I slept not a wink. The heart kept pounding away 160 times every minute. It had begun at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, and all the time from then till 9 P.M. bed-time, I had been engaged writing a paper on Abortion for the Am. Med. Assoc. which will meet early in June at Chicago. I was engaged writing when attacked, and wife thinks it is owing to too much absorption of mind in seeking material and weaving it into my paper has been the cause of both my recent attacks. It battered away as faithfully as in the beginning, when I got out of bed this morning, but I ate breakfast and then went with Follen to Conshohocken on his way to the City; returned to Jay Woods to see him, he not being well. While there talking with him & daughter Susan, the palp. left me, and I have since been very well.

February 26: Saturday

This has been one of the stormiest days, snowing & raining, unceasingly from 7 A.M. till 7 P.M. I went with Follen to Conshohocken early as usual so that he could take the 8 A.M. train to Phila. At 8 A.M. Frannie Yocom, my daughter, arrived at the Pa. station and I brot her home with me, through a fierce snow storm. After reading the Conshohocken and Hatboro papers, I set to work at my Medical Paper on Abortion, for the meeting of the American Medical Association, which I have agreed to write, to be read there in Chicago, at the meeting in May. I cont'd. at it steadily till 2 P.M., when I felt so weary that I desisted and took a short ride with "Matt," through the rain storm, to see two patients, and he recreated.

"Mother," (wife) [is] well as usual today; Mary [is] in the City with Frannie Day, our daughter.

March 5: Saturday.

Weather has been disagreeable for two weeks as could be desired even to punish an enemy. I have [been] unable because of various matters besides patients, to write at all on the subject chosen for the Am. Med. Assoc.

The news from Europe gives less indication of War.

Our Congress adjourned at midnight March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Inauguration of another new Congress was expected, but did not take place.

The measure passed by both houses of Congress to make son Joseph and others who served in the War, full Surgeons, because of their service then was not signed by the President and therefore did not become a law. To Joseph it matters little as he is now near the head of the list, and will be a full Surgeon in two or three years, he thinks.

Wife seems to continue active about the house. I am active too, do a great deal of active work, but I weary much easier than last year at this time.

March 9: Wednesday.

I was riding around pretty sharply till 11 ½ A.M. when, at the house of a patient, I was attacked by palpitation. It was near home, so came at once, lay down half hour, took dinner, then 40 drops Tct. Digitalis and ¼ gr. sulph. morph.; in half hour [it] went off. Then went to Medical Meeting at Norristown, staid till 4 P.[M.], then came home.

March 11: Friday.

Death of David Marple, who was the son of Enoch Marple, the son of Mary Marple, sister of my grandfather Benjamin Corson of Bucks Co. Today he is to be buried. As I was last night subpoenaed to be at Court this morning, I shall not be able to go to the funeral. He has been poorly for several months. Is about seventy years of age, I think.

Annie has just called me to see the sparrows eat the crumbs which she has put out for them. 13 of them pounced down upon it at once.

Hospital Trustees from Va.

Yesterday I rec'd. a letter from Dr. S. W. Dickinson of Marion, Va., telling me that himself and three other trustees of an Asylum for Insane, will be here to see the Eastern Hospital, so as to learn about its workings, today or tomorrow. I had sent Dr. Dickinson pamphlets and books for his use, and had invited him to come, by all means, to see the

hospital before deciding on the organization of theirs. I am desirous that they should have a woman doctor. I have a double reason therefore to go to Norristown today, as I wish to see him, and he has desired me to meet him.

7 P.M. I went to the Court this morning, having been summoned on the trial of Charley Bichings to testify to good character. This is the young man who broke into Susan Ellis' home and assaulted her, choked her terribly, but could not gain his purpose.

When I had been in the Court-room a short time, Judge Stinson, whom yesterday I told of the coming of the Virginians, came over to tell me five men had come & he had sent them in a Cab to the hospital. I soon went over and met them, went through the shops, wards, &c., took dinner with them, and got home in the early evening. Their names were Dr. S. W. Dickinson, Dr. Black (Stonewall Jackson's doctor)

[empty space]. I hope they will take our plan to have a woman doctor.

March 20: Sunday.

Evening, 8 o'clock. Had palpitation today from 1 P.M. till nearly 5 P.M.. Since then wrote to Joseph and read Life of Abram Lincoln.

While I had the palpitation on me, I went at 1 ½ P.M. to the funeral of George Jones, color'd, who when a boy, lived with us for several years. I went down in our "red-frame" on the turnpike to see him and see what carriages were wanted; staid only half an hour; quite a respectable gathering of white and colored people.

"Mother" (wife) not so well for the past few days, but still going around, sometimes as if there were little the matter.

Bertha Yocom and Dorothea came up at 10 A.M., and as Mary Carter Corson and Bertie Day had come yesterday, we had quite a pleasant company here today.

March 24: Thursday.

We have had horrid weather this week. I have done a good deal of business of various kinds, "practice," reading, &c. Have just sealed up my Essay on Abortion, to [be] sent to Chicago, to be read before the American Medical Association in June; will sent it with a letter to the Secretary tomorrow, and then will begin my article on "Cold as a Remedy in Inflammatory Affections" for the International Medical Congress which will convene at Washington next September.

March 29: Tuesday.

Mrs. Maggie Corson, Dr. Ellwood's wife, and our daughter Tacie were here on a short visit today.

A host of letters rec'd. the past 10 days from physicians in different States asking for Sumach to treat Stomatitis with, and Cimicifuga to treat Chorea, according to my presentation.

Just as I began dinner today palpitation struck me very hard, but it only lasted me a few minutes. Weather cold. Thermometer 18° at sunrise; wind so cold that riding is most unpleasant.

April 1: Friday.

Ground covered with snow just about two inches thick, covered all over the same thickness. Thermometer one degree below freezing (31°).

Evening. Most of the snow in all but Northern exposures, thinned & in roads nearly gone; temperature only one degree less than in morning.

April 2: Saturday.

Ground again covered with snow like yesterday morning, and snow still coming from north west. Thermometer exactly as yesterday morning (31°), one degree below freezing. It is "storming."

April 5: Tuesday.

Palp. 3 ½ hours, from 8 A.M. till 11 ½ A.M.

April 7: Thursday.

Went to Consho. early with Follen. About 9 A.M. [had] palp.; [it] lasted three hours. It may be that the palpitation yesterday was owing to my getting up a settlement with Robert R. Corson. We have sold and been paid the money for our Benny Jones farm, and I have been making out my account for all monies paid. I have \$3000 principal on mortgage and \$450 unpaid interest; also nearly \$1000 of claims for monies paid.

April 8: Friday.

This is a delightful morning. I have much to do today. It seems I can get no time to write on my papers; so much correspondence.

April 11: Monday.

Had palp. but did not cease riding; staid but 1 hour. Attended a Gypsy yest. & today in Camp in Woods on Brother Alan W. Corson's old place.

April 14: Thursday.

Went to Consho. with Follen. Palp. at P. office at 9 A.M.; came home; began a Criticism on an article in Boston Medical Journal on Quinine as a remedy in Pneumonia, a useless remedy. The writing became so interesting that I forgot the palp. until just before dinner, a sudden jerk under the breast bone and a diffuse heat over my body told me that the heart had fallen back into its usual gait. I attribute these spells today to broken rest and sleep last night.

It is now 9 P.M. and Mother and Mary are anxious for bed. Follen is at a card-party at my nephew Dr. Ellwood Corson's house in Norristown.

April 19: Tuesday.

This morning went to Consho. with Follen; then to Norristown. Paid \$40.75 for Coal for Tacie; was then to have a consultation with Dr. Drake in the case of Lawyer Apple, but got palp. and then turned about and drove home. At home began writing on my Medical Paper for the Phila. Surgical & Medical Reporter; got much absorbed in the work, and just before noon it went off.

April 20: Wednesday.

Sent my medical Paper, a review of one by Dr. Riply on "Quinine as an anti-pyretic", to the Editor. Brought Frannie home with me from Conshohocken.

April 24: Sunday.

A beautiful morning! The grass and grain are as green as grass and grain can be; the temp. 50° pleasantly cool after yesterday's rain.

Daughter Susan Lukens and grand-daughter Mary Carter Corson, Joseph's daughter, are here now; came up a few minutes ago. All are in the parlors but myself.

This morning early, I concluded that I would spend the day in writing a paper for the Medical Congress which is to convene at Washington in September, and which I promised Prof. Traill Green to write for his "Section," but the morning has lured me to walk out and enjoy the healthful air, see the birds, &c.

April 28: Thursday.

I had been riding a good deal; had been to Norristown and home after dinner. As I came back and was nearly home, it [palp.] struck me strongly at 3 ½ P.M. On getting home, took 60 drops Tct. Digitalis. This kept about till bed-time; took at midnight ¼ gr. sulph. morph; [palp.] went off at 20 minutes after 3 A.M., on 29<sup>th</sup>. In all that time, 12 hours, it beat at the rate of 160 times per minute.

May 3: Tuesday.

Have been busy at various things since last writing. The spring is here in earnest now. The trees blossoming and sending forth leaves, fresh & green, and the air in the early morning is sweet and pleasant as possible.

May 5: Thursday.

Just after supper today, or rather just at dark, I was sent for to see a woman who, instead of taking 3 drops of medicine ordered by a physician, took 31 drops. They were afraid it had poisoned her. I found her with no symptoms of poisoning. It was Fowler's Sol.<sup>xxxii</sup> that she had taken. While talking with her, I was attacked by palpitation. I gave no sign of it to them, but after attending to her, [I] came home. I had my man with me. Just before bed-time, a few minutes ago, while coming in from my office, it went off, suddenly as it came. It had only lasted about 1 ¼ hours.

May 7: Saturday.

Up at 5 A.M. Breakfast 6 ½; left home at 7 ½ for Conshohocken with Follen, he for the City, I to the P. office; then to Wm. Hallows to get him to "lay out" a kitchen for the red house here at home. Bro't Wm. up; saw Mrs. Huston and prescribed for her, [then] home to dinner. Henry Schlater came while I was eating, to pay me \$100, on his bill. After dinner rode to Henry Carn's to see him, a school mate now about 84 years old, blind for more than 20 years. Met a cow-dealer; sold him a cow for \$25 without getting out of my carriage; came home and spent a couple of hours directing my man and boy to clean up here and there, and generally; sent the two boys into the road to pick all loose stones; went out to direct them when at the front-door I encountered a gentleman, Mr. Nichols, member of the Legislature from a Western Co., and a lady, Miss Sarah E. Wormald's, Wormald of Conneautville, Crawford County, Pa. This lady had been all winter in Jacksonville, Florida, for health. Had been under the medical care of Dr. Emilie [sic] Sabal, and she bro't a letter from him to me. She wished me to be her physician as Dr. Sabal told her "if I could not cure her she could not be cured by any man

in the United States.” I felt some embarrassed, that she should have left the Philadelphia physicians behind her and have come to a country doctor; but I made a careful investigation of her case and prescribed for her; she paid my fee \$5.00, and I am to prescribe for her by letter this summer,

Chalkley Styer met me in the road and wanted me to contribute to Martha Schoffield’s colored school. I handed over my five dollars, and so did not accumulate much in that day. Follen went to Atlantic City this P.M.

May 12: Thursday.

Palp. began yesterday at 6 ½ P.M., lasted till 4 A.M. today, 9 ½ hours. Took in an hour 40 drops Tct. Digitalis and at 9 P.M. 15 grs. Bro. Pot. [Potassium Bromide], and at 10 P.[M.] 15 more. Think it much more comfortable to me to have ¼ gr. morph. Had lost nearly the whole night’s sleep Tuesday night. Felt sure I would have the palp.

May 19: Thursday.

Nothing of special interest has occurred since last writing, other than occurs almost daily. We have all moved on in our accustomed way. Mother has been as well as usual, and I have had no palpitation until today. At 8 A.M., while on my way to Consho. with Follen, it took me; but after getting my letters, I went over to Dr. McKenzie’s and while there, he gave me a spoonful of Bromide Caffeine. I rode around the village to see some men and as I came back over the bridge, it disappeared.

May 22: Sunday.

Evening, 9 o’clock. Today until noon, I wrote most of the time on my paper, entitled, “Cold as a Remedy in Inflammatory Diseases.” Bertha and two of her children came up at 11 A.M. from Phila. to Sp. Mill, and Mary brot them from thence.

At 1 P.M. Follen and myself went in the carriage to my Brother Charles Corson’s old homestead. There was considerable company there. The home is now in possession of his son Laurence E. Corson and daughter Mary Frances Corson, and a splendid farm it is. Charles’ son William was there today. He lives at Sumneytown, or only a mile from it. A fine man, so conscientious, honest, moral, &c.

After two hours nearly spent there, we started for home; called at Albert Crawford’s; he married Adeline Corson, Charles’ daughter; from thence home, arriving at exactly six P.M., the time we promised “Mother” to be back.

May 23: Monday.

The old Indian [Chief Pasqual] was well known to my son Dr. Joseph K Corson, when stationed at Fort Yuma in Arizona in from 1880 to 1884.

**Editor’s note:** Pasted into the diary is a short newspaper clipping stating,

#### AN INDIAN CHIEF CREMATED.

Yuma, May 10.- The famous Yuma chief Pasqual died last night and was cremated this morning with imposing barbaric ceremonies. His horses were slaughtered and all his personal effects burned with



the body.

May 26: Thursday.

While eating supper at 6 P.[M.] was struck by palpitation. In an hour took heaped teaspoon of Bromide Caffeine, and in half hour another; did no good; at 10 P.M. took 1/8<sup>th</sup> gr. sulph. morph.; was soon more comfortable, but the palpitation did not leave till Friday at 3 A.M. Slept none all night.

May 27: Friday.

Am receiving many letters today. One from the Lower Merion Poetess, Miss Margaret B. Harvey; also rec'd. her new book on "Musical Studies at Home"; also a letter from Miss Marianna Gibbons, who wished to pay us a visit next Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.

May 29: Sunday.

Follen took me in his carriage with his new and beautiful mare, to Phenixville [sic] to see Charles Adamson, who had sent for me, being sick. Reached there at 10 o'clock; made a short visit to Charles; then a visit to Dr. Oberholtzer & family. Then at 12:30 took dinner, which we had previously ordered at the large hotel. At two P.M. were at Elijah Pennypacker's where was much company, a deputation of Friends from Yearly Meeting, and also Dr. Charles Dolley, Joseph & Charles Adamson from Phila. Left there at 3 P.M. and by way of Valley Forge, reached home at 5 P.M. Did not feel much tired, but this morning, Monday, was a little stiff.

May 31: Tuesday.

Letter from P. O. tells me Miss Gibbons will not be here till Thursday.

June 1: Wednesday.

Today at 5 P.M. at the Episcopal Church, by Rev'd. Atkins, Dr. Highley was married to Miss Mary Wilson of Conshohocken. When "the ring" was about to be placed on her finger, it was dropped on the floor by, some say the Minister, others, by Dr. H. himself. It produced a buzz for a moment. There were a great many invited guests. The church was nearly full, and the affair passed off very well. The people were met at the door by the four ushers and conducted to their seats. As soon as the ceremony was over, the pair went to the rail road station and started on the "bridal tour."

I took daughter Mary & Frannie with me to Susan's (Frannie being up to see her mother that day) and Follen came up from the City in time as did Jaywood Lukens, Susan's husband.

June 2: Thursday.

Visit of Miss Marianna Gibbons. Miss Gibbons had written to me a few days ago that she wished to come and see me as I had been so good a friend of her now deceased father, and we had arranged that it be today. So I met her at 11 o'clock at the station of the Penna. Schuylkill Valley R. Road and brot her home. After dinner took her to see the grave of Elias H. Corson, whom she and her father admired greatly. Then went to see his mother and spent an hour; then to see Helen Hovenden's studio, she not being at home. At five o'clock, after a pleasant talk with "mother," who had not been

able to go with us in the afternoon trip, though daughter Mary had, Mary & self took her to see the "big spring," on our way to Spring Mill Station. At 23 minutes after 5 P.M., Follen came there from the City, and as her train did not arrive till 5:52, we staid with her till she left for home. A wonderfully smart, learned young lady. [She] once edited the "Friends Intelligencer."

June 5: Sunday.

Daniel O. Hitner has long been considered one of our richest men. For half a century he has been in large business, had large farms, for thirty years or more the great white marble quarry at Marble Hall, and for the last thirty of forty years, furnaces for making Iron at Spring Mill, three of them. [He] also [had] the Henderson Marble Quarry in Up[per] Merion, and a marble yard in Philadelphia.

Last Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, the creditors pounced on him with executions and seized his personal estate. His indebtedness is (as already entered in the office) 241,000 dollars. His brother Henry, who died a few years ago, left great indebtedness, contracted by wanton living, and Daniel assumed the debts, he says to the amount of \$220,000.

June 8: Wednesday.

This evening just as I was eating supper, had an attack of palp. After a few minutes took a drink of ice water, and at once it left. Had just gotten into bed when it began again. I took ¼ gr. of morph. sulph. and cont'd. in bed.

June 9: Thursday.

Until two o'clock this morning the palp. cont'd., then suddenly left. I had not a wink of sleep, till 4 ½ A.M. today. At 5 I got up and as the palp. was gone, went with Follen to Conshohocken and to Norristown afterwards, and kept going the whole day, but I was very tired at night.

9 P.M. Am going to bed.

June 10: Friday.

Slept soundly last night, but for several days have had little appetite; can eat but little, scarcely any meat of any kind.

Am somewhat worried on Tacie's account. Her husband failed two years ago and has done nothing to any profit since. I have had to support his family ever since. They live in a house of mine, which ought to bring me \$300 per year. I lose that and keep the family beside.

There is no finer, more generous, less selfish woman than Tacie, but her husband has been fearfully extravagant, and his poor business capacity has been the cause of his failure. He has since then contracted some debts and now has to raise money to pay and wants me to help him. He was very impertinent, insolent I may say, a few days ago. So he will have to look to some one else.

6 P.M. Wife has just been in the office where I write to say she would like to "ride out" this lovely evening. I must stop writing to put up some medicine for a patient. Many letters rec'd. and written the past week.

Sunset. Follen and his mother have just returned from a ride with his beautiful mare. They went up Norristown Turnpike road to what we used to call "Mackerel Harts

Road;” then up that to Mr. Whitalls on “Sandy Hill Road,” & from there home by the way of Chester K. Smith’s.

I have had an unpleasant, dull pain just above my left hip, off and on, for two days, and now, 8 ½ P.M., have it also in my back; so will go to bed. But before doing so, will say that I have had several letters today and have answered them.

June 11: Saturday.

Here I am again, in the office, feeling pretty well. Had a pretty good rest last night. And oh! what a bright, beautiful morning this is. The sun sends his silvery beams over the green grass which glistens all over with spray, dew drops, each converted into what I fancy a white crystal, while the dark shade of the trees and bushes make a striking contrast of light and shade all over the lawn.

Yesterday Follen sold 500 dollars worth of Schuylkill Navigation Bonds, which have been paying me 6 per cent for many years, for \$473.75 cts, because we got afraid of their depreciation, as they paid no dividend last time, and the Reading Rail Road Co. who hold[s] the river now is in trouble.

Sent letters in reply to letters rec’d. to Miss Wornad [Wormald] of Crawford Co., a patient sent me by Dr. Sabal, and to Dr. Henry M. Freas of Phila. He wants more of my pamphlets.

June 12: Sunday.

[Did] much writing on my paper, and of letters, &c. Gd. son Thomas Yocom and nephew Frank Bacon walked up from Germantown this P.M. and took tea with us. Warren Poley who married Martha Corson, dropped in this evening and gave me two bottles Bromo-Caffeine and two Clinical Thermometers. Some months ago I attended Martha some weeks and made no charge. This was kind return on his part, and an evidence of his gratefulness.

June 13: Monday.

Have written several letters since getting into the office at 5 o’clock. Am ready now to go with Follen.

June 15: Wednesday.

Have had several letters yesterday & today, and an invitation to Lehigh University Commencement; also to Swarthmore Commencement; one [letter] from a druggist in Baltimore; one from a physician in Wilmington, Del., both for Sumach bark for Stomatitis; [they] had seen my publication. I have had many calls for it from doctors, and have sent them packages. Also a letter from Miss Sarah E. Wormald of Crawford Co., deploring my indisposition to treat her disease. Also a letter from the Com. of Arrangement of the meeting of the State Medical Society, to convene there, to make a brief speech at the banquet which they will have. All of these had to be answered this evening or in the morning. Had palp. after I went to bed; it was a strong attack, but went down twice and drank ice water, so it lasted only 2 hours.

June 16: Thursday.

5½ o’clock. Busy at my letters. “Mother” too is up, so are Catharine the cook, and

Matt, the farmer. The young help "Lanny," the son of Matt, and Annie, the daughter of Catharine, have not shown up yet; they will in half an hour. At breakfast time Mary and Follen will present themselves.

June 17: Friday.

Invitations Received. Visits to be made.

Sunday, 2 P.M. Follen & myself to be at Doctor Samuel Wolfe's at Skippackville.

Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. "Drawing Room Meeting at Torworth," the Residence of Justus C. Strawbridge, Germantown near Chelton Av. Station at 4 P.M. Address by Canon Wilberforce, "On the Present Aspect of the antivivisection cause." Invitation by the Society.

Monday, 7:30 P.M. "Haverford Alumni Association Annual Oration by Dr. Robert H. Chase. Subject, "Education and Insanity." Invitation from Dr. Chase.

Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. Swarthmore College Commencement at 10:30 A.M. Invitation by President. Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 9 P.M. Reception at Hotel Bellevue, Philad. to Dr. Richard J. Levis on his retirement from Professional Labor.

Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. To open Discussion on Meningitis before Montgomery Co. Medical Society meeting at 2 P.M. at Norristown.

Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup>. Lehigh University Commencement. Invitation by President Dr. Lamberton.

The above will keep me busy. H.C.

June 18: Saturday.

The 109<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the evacuation of Valley Forge by General Washington. A Gala Day. The cannons are booming. Before day-light this morning, the reports of cannon were heard, one after another at very short intervals.

I went to Phila. with daughter Mary, who was off for New Hope. At the depot of the Pa. S. V. [Rail] Road, we met Frannie Yocom & Mary Carter Corson, my gd. children. Leaving Mary with them to wait till the train left for New Hope, I went off to buy clothes; reached home at 3:30 P.M.

There was a great crowd of people, many thousands, at Valley Forge today.

June 19: Sunday.

Follen and myself drove up to Skippackville today, leaving home at 1 P.M., arriving there at 3. At 5 P.[M.] had a "nice tea;" at 6 left for home, arrived at 8 P.[M.] and mother & Frannie who is staying with us in Mary's absence at New Hope, were glad to see us. Richard Day had been up all day, but went to the City again soon after we reached home.

We had a pleasant ride, through a beautiful region, abounding in the most carefully cultured farms. When we got into Worcester Township among the Schwenkfelders, the houses and barns really delighted me. So well taken care of, so beautifully painted, the yards so neat and clean, the lawns so large and beautiful, the crops so good.

June 20: Monday.

At 2:15 P.M., Frannie Day & self started for Germantown to hear "Canon Wilberforce of England address an audience at Torworth, Country seat of Justus

Strawbridge on antivivisection,” or rather on the abomination of vivisection. It was the most interesting discourse I have almost ever heard. He is a wonderful speaker, Phillips Brooks intensified, so ready, so eloquent in a quiet way, so ready in his illustrations, so conversant with the scriptures, so capable of weaving its beautiful utterances in favor of kindness to animals with his discourse. He held the 150 intelligent people who listened to him in a state of intense quiet. I was introduced to him.

We reached home by 6 ½ P.M.

June 21: Tuesday.

Went a 8 A.M. with Follen to Philad., did some shopping, and at 10:30 A.M. went with about 150 others to Swarthmore commencement. Did not attend to the ceremonies, but went to the museum, to see the minerals & other objects; strolled over the grounds, took lunch, with half a dozen others before the multitude came, and then went to the Station, and reached the Phila. Broad St. Station just in time to step onto the Conshohocken train at 2:20 P.M.; was home in an hour.

My intention was to attend the Reception to be given to Dr. Levis at Hotel Bellevue, from 9 to 11 P.M., but a threatening of storm stopped me when the time to start came; and well it was that I staid at home, for we had a fearful storm before midnight.

June 22: Wednesday.

Attended meeting of the County Medical Society. Dr. Furey, whom I proposed for membership, was opposed by Dr. Whitcomb & Dr. Bradley, both objectionable men themselves, in libelous speeches. Bradley declared him guilty as an abortionist. I opened the discussion on “Acute Meningitis.” Then, as I had brought daughter Frannie & her mother on a visit to Tacie, left at 4 P.M. for home, in the rain.

June 23: Thursday.

After coming from Norristown Wednesday evening, I got palp. at 7 P.M. and it lasted me till 11 P.M. Took nothing.

June 24: Friday.

Was well all day Thursday, but at 1 A.M. Friday morning awoke with palpitation; it lasted me 2 hours and a half. I have done so much the past days of this week, that I do not wonder at having palpitation. Letters from Joseph.

June 26: Sunday.

This morning I rose at 5:30. At six I was writing in my Congress Paper. At 6 ½, palp. struck me quite hard. I cont’d. at work till breakfast, 7 A.M.; said nothing about it.; then I resumed my work and never did I feel better for good writing. Steadily I went on till 11 ½ almost without moving, when at 11 ½ it disappeared. How strange it is that if I can become absorbed in writing, reading, or conversation, I almost lose sight of my heart’s rapid action, and yet if I lie down, or sit about without the mind being interested in things, how wretched I am.

June 30: Thursday.

Mary returned from New Hope Tuesday evening. Thus far this week, we have

been getting in hay; delightful weather for it; and this morning is a beautiful one. Yesterday I was engaged for an hour on my papers. Mother, Frannie and Mary & Frannie's children all spent the day at daughter Susan Lukens. Tacie was there too. I was at home alone and when I began on my papers, I was in no mood to write.

July 3: Sunday.

Yesterday, Dr. Sabal of Jacksonville, Fla. came to see me at 10 A.M. After dinner took him to Norristown, introduced him to Dr. Ellwood M. Corson and Dr. Lewis W. Read, my nephew. This is a horrid pen. Then we went to the Eastern Hospital, a mile from town. We went through the whole institution and got back to the office at 6 P.M. Dr. Ellwood then took us and also Dr. Sabal's daughter, about 15 years old, to his house to tea, after which I parted from Dr. Sabal and his daughter and reached home after sunset.

Dr. Sabal came from Philad. to see me. He was reading my Medical Papers for several years and was greatly pleased with them. About three years ago, he told Dr. Levis, the Phila. Surgeon, that he intended to come up to see me, and more than a year since, he wrote me, after I had published my "3036 cases of Labor," that he certainly would come up to see me. We have had considerable correspondence since that time. I never have had such continuous and earnest praise of my writings from any of the many who have so freely written me in praise of them, as from Dr. Sabal.

I rose early, a few minutes after 5 A.M., and soon afterwards, before breakfast, palpitation struck me. It only lasted about 10 minutes. I then ate breakfast and as I had slept but little in the preceding night, laid myself on the lounge and staid there till after 10 o'clock, when a man came to get bled. I attended to him, then at 11 ½ A.M. rode over to James Huston's to see his wife. As I was passing Wm. Livezey's house, Dr. Allis<sup>xxxiii</sup> who has it for the summer, came out and invited me in to see his family. After a few minutes with them, I rode on & directly was again attacked by palpitation; so I returned. Had it two hours & twenty five minutes. Dr. Allis came by my request to see me so that he might see one case he was greatly interested in it.

Did no writing today, and very little reading

July 4: Monday.

Much firing of Crackers over at the little village, none here.

We are taking in hay back of the barn. Follen has gone to the P. O. at Conshohocken. There has been very general firing of Crackers and displays of fire works since dark set in. All around we could hear them, and along the horizon at Chestnut Hill, Rockets and Roman Candles have been shooting up all the evening. Mother, Mary and self and Thomas Yocom, our grand son, have been looking at them from our piazza. It was quite amusing to me to hear them, every few minutes say, "Oh! that's beautiful," "Oh! that was splendid," &c., &c. They were merely little flashes for a few seconds, of a small blue or red light, with an occasional Rocket, which we could see when it had reached its greatest elevation for a few seconds as it descended and faded away. All this time there was suspended before our eyes at an elevation of nearly forty degrees and right before us as we looked towards Chestnut Hill, where these petty fire works were, the moon nearly at its full size, lighting up the whole country. Never did it seem to me more beautiful. Suspended in mid-air, brilliant as polished silver, spreading

its white rays over a vast region of Country, it seemed to me so infinitely above and beyond all comparison with the petty little squibs which were popping up here and there for miles around us, that I wondered how they could attract attention at all. I shall never see the moon again without worshipping that mighty Creative power which sends it on its nightly rounds. Oh! how grand it seemed to me in contrast with those petty fire works.

July 10: Sunday.

Eve, 7 ½ o'clock. This whole day except while making two visits to patients, I have looked over, corrected and rewritten parts of my Congress paper, "on Cold as a remedy in inflammatory affections." It is so dark, I can scarcely see the lines.

July 11: Monday.

Have had palp. since 3 ½ A.M.; have been up for an hour. It is still on me very strongly. Follen and little Mary expect to start for the "far West" tomorrow at noon. Follen is not well, has not been for a few days. Worried about the responsibility of having charge of Mary, and added to this a diarrhoea, so that he is very uncomfortable.

July 13: Wednesday.

Follen's Trip West to Fort Sherman, to see His Brother Joseph & family.

They were to go yesterday but Follen had not been well for a few days, so put it off till today. Mary's School was out weeks ago, but Follen then not well [and] able to go until the Courts adjourned [for] the summer.

I took them to the Conshohocken depot this morning, and then they and daughter Susan Lukens went in the 9 A.M. train to Phila. & were to leave there at 11:55 A.M. They have a long journey before them, several thousand miles, and the weather is extremely hot, at 90° in mid-day.

Now, 8 P.M., they are in Western Pa.

After leaving them, Dr. McKinsy [McKenzie] wished me to go with him in consultation; after that, I brot a man home with me to help with the hay. Then saw two patients here; after dinner, went to see a dropseal [sic] patient, so as to turn him over to Dr. Leedom, whom I had with me. Then went to see a broken leg case with Dr. Leedom; after supper went to Norristown by request of Dr. E. M. Corson, to see his child.

July 14: Thursday.

7 o'clock P.M. I have suffered with the palpitation until just now, when as Mother, Mary & myself were sitting on the front piazza, it suddenly left. How strange! For 9 ½ hours the heart has battered away 160 times per minute. Until noon I cont'd. to ride and visit my few patients; then after dinner lay down and actually slept for an hour; then wrote for a couple of hours; since then sat about and read occasionally. Well! I am glad to be relieved of it. The hay makers have finished getting in our hay. We have a large quantity; can't get it all into the barn.

July 15: Friday.

Went at 7 A.M. to Norristown, did some business; then (Mary along) went to Consho. by way of Mrs. Dr. Freedleys. She is cured of a (petit mal), an Epilepsy, by Blk. Snake Root and Bro. Pot., which I have been giving her for a few weeks. She had

had Dr. Beaver, then Dr. Knipe, then Dr. Highley at her for months, and grew worse all the time. She is now well. After seeing her, went on to Conshohocken; then home before eleven A.M. Forgot to say we visited a patient at Wm. Yetter's on our way to Norristown. Since dinner, [I] have visited Mrs. Huston, read, written, &c. The men finished the hay & grain today. Wrote to Joseph before breakfast, to John S. Williams since noon.

July 16: Saturday.

Beautiful morning, unexpectedly, as I expected rain. The sparrows are twittering all around. Therm. 72° F. As we finished our hay and grain yesterday, Matt and his son Lanney [Lanny] may potter around and clear up things today.

Have gotten a letter from Follen at Chicago.

July 18: Monday.

Heard from the travelers Saturday. It is fearfully hot in the cars. They propose to stay 24 hours in St. Paul, to get a good rest and sleep. The Thermometer has stood at 93° F. for two or three days at noon.

July 24: Sunday.

Since last writing we have heard twice from Follen and Mary, on their way. First after they left St. Paul, where they staid 24 hours and were well treated by our friend Dr. Hand, and second after they had past through Dacotah [Dakota], and were only a days ride from Couer deLene [Coeur d'Alene], Joseph's place of residence. The weather was intensely hot with them as well as with us. I have written every day except Sundays since they left here, to Joseph. We have had a telegram of their safe arrival at Fort Sherman; the name Couer deLene<sup>xxxiv</sup> has been dropped and Ft. Sherman adopted.

This morning almost in a moment after I stepped out of the bath-tub at 5 ½ o'clock, I had a severe attack of palpitation. After breakfast I came here into the office and began to write on my paper, having left it all the week. This was cont'd. till 10 ½ A.M. when Jay and Susan came. I then talked with them on the front piazza till dinner-time or 11 ½, when they went home, and in a few minutes it went off. Since then I have written steadily till tea-time; then went to see a patient, taking grand-daughter Carrie Cresson with me. It is now just 7 P.M., and I will close up my book and rest on the piazza with Mother (wife) and the girls, Mary and Carrie.

Very hot, sultry evening; much rain this afternoon.

August 11: Thursday.

Was up at 5 A.M., dressed in the office and [was] writing by 5 ½; cont'd. it till breakfast, at 7; at 7 ½ resumed it, when I was struck with palp. which lasted two hours.

After the palpitation was over and Mary returned from taking Follen to Conshohocken, I took Dr. Oscar H. Allis with me to Norristown, and to the Eastern Hospital; got home about 1 P.M. In the afternoon took Dr. Allis with me in a ride to Henry Schlater's to see my patient, and looking among the farms for rye straw.

August 12: Friday.



My heart stops a beat, every other time. It is a very unpleasant condition. Sometimes there is a regular beat, then following it as quickly is lightening almost, a second one not apparently half so strong.

I have done a good deal today in various ways. This afternoon have been much in the office writing. Just now [the] heart is turbulent, stopping, jerking, beating double, &c.; very unpleasant.

August 13: Saturday.

Heart still somewhat irregular. Slept finely last night.

9 P.M. Heart has been very irregular all day; spent two hours this afternoon abridging my paper on "cold as a remedy in inflammatory diseases." In the afternoon went to Conshohocken; from thence to Spring Mill to see Daniel O. Hitner, a friendly visit. Last year at this time he was considered to be a rich man, very rich some thought. Now he has given up all, and there will not be enough to pay his debts. He and his wife seemed quite glad to see me. They appreciated the visit properly, I think.

August 14: Sunday.

5 A.M. I slept well last night, but when awake, my heart was exceedingly irregular and made me somewhat uncomfortable. I hardly realize that I am old, until I get sick, and even then it seems strange to me that I should have any ailment, but the change as years go on is inevitable.

Rec'd. yesterday from a committee of which Hampton L. Carson, Esq., attorney at Law, is Chairman, an invitation of which the following is a copy:

The authorities of the Several States of this Union, have resolved to celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of the Framing and Promulgation of the Constitution of the United States at Philadelphia on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> days of September next, by suitable ceremonies, including Military and industrial displays, and the delivery of an Oration and a Poem.

In behalf of the Constitutional Commission, we have the honor to Request your presence.

John A. Kasson, President  
Amos R. Little, Chairman Ex. Com.  
Hampton L. Carson, Sec'y, 907 Walnut St., Phila.

An early answer is requested.

My answer was as follows:

Hampton L. Carson, Esq.  
907 Walnut St. Phila.

Dear Sir.

I desire to acknowledge the receipt of an invitation to be present at the Centennial Anniversary of the framing and promulgation of the Constitution of the United States, and to say that, it will give me pleasure to be present at the time named.

Very respectfully  
Hiram Corson

August 16: Tuesday.

From 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> (last Sunday) [Saturday], I was greatly troubled with irregularity of the heart. Now am quite well again; was at Penllyn & Ambler yesterday with Dr. Allis, just to show him the Country & show him the doctors.

Death of Judge Benjamin Markley Boyer

He had been ill for several years with Locomotor Ataxia, a spinal disease which causes irregular locomotion, hence the name. His wife was deceased. His son recently married and his wife were at a "sea-side Resort," he was having his Court vacation, but remained at home, his illness making it wholly inconvenient to go abroad to stay all night. In the afternoon of Aug. -----, he started to go up stairs, fell and died in a few minutes.

He was an excellent man, always cordial with me. I loved him. It was by my choice that he was made President of the Centennial Association of Montgomery County two years ago. I was appointed by our Committee to get some one, and I fixed on him.

August 19: Friday.

Up at 5 ½. Writing in the office before six. At 7 ½ went with Follen to Conshohocken; stopped to bid good-bye to daughter Susan Lukens and her husband who with Howard Wood and wife will leave Broad St. Station for New York at 4 P.M. today, [leaving] New York tomorrow for Liverpool.

I took Susan to the depot. Then I went to Norristown. As I was going up, after a visit though to J. Henry Stemple's child., palp came on, but I went on up, got to Brother William's office, Ellwood's, sat there awhile reading the papers, when it went off. Then I went to see the wife of Channing Potts, in his splendid marble house in the "West End" of Norristown. From there to John J. Corson's, to pay 109 dollars County tax.; gave a check for \$100, he to pay the rest; he has of mine more than enough to pay it all; then home by way of daughter Tacie's. Then noon, at 1 P.M. went to Consho. to give my man direction. From there to Barren Hill to see John Henry Dager's son, and stopped to see wife of Sam Freas. Then from Dager's went up to Plymouth Village to see Mrs. Huston who has been long-time sick. There her husband paid me her bill up to April 1<sup>st</sup>, \$75.00. 3 P.M. [was] at home; did not go out again.

August 20: Saturday.

Rose early. Follen took his own carriage and went to Consho., taking Thos. Yocom with him. Then went to Judge Boyer's funeral at 10 A.M. I went to see Clarence Dager; then to Consho.; then to Norristown to Bank & deposit \$75.00; then to Judge Boyer's funeral. There were many fine men there, but so many good men alive & well last year, friends of his were absent from death. As I came home, visited my niece Sarah Garretson. Took leisure all the afternoon.

Rec'd. a letter this morning, announcing to me that I had been appointed by Dr. Delazelle [DeLazelle], Chairm. of the Obstetrical Section of the International Medical Congress, one of the Council of that Section.

August 21: Sunday.

Wrote letters today to Dr. Jagers [W. W. Jaggard of Chicago], Sec. to Dr. Delazelle [sic], that I accept the position; to Dr. Traill Green who appointed me one of his Vice Presidents, he being president of the Sec. of Materia Medica; one to Rebecca C. Hallowell of Atlantic City in reference to her valuable paper“ on the effects of Stimulants in disease; one to Dr. John S. Lynch of Baltimore on medical subjects; one to Dr. Mary Willits of Philad.

Did not go from home; had one patient to consult me, and one man to pay me part of his bill. Have been busy all day, reading & writing.

August 22: Monday.

Went with Follen & Thos. Yocom to Consho. Just as they left me at 8 o'clock at the P.O., I was attacked. But I rode over Schuylkill to Dr. McKinsy's [McKenzie's]; said nothing about it; then to Esq. Conards, back to the P.O., where I got by the second mail 4 letters, from Sarah Dolley, M.D., Richard Duglison, M.D., Jaggard, M.D. (Sec. of Sect. of Obstetrics in International Medical Congress), and D. Colvin, M.D. of Clyde, N. York. Having read all these letters while seated in my carriage, [I] then went to see Mrs. Dewees, a patient. While talking with her, it [palpitation] left me. Afterwards I visited two patients, did a good deal of reading & writing. Felt pretty well. Wife also [is] pretty well today. The morning papers announced the death of Dr. Randolph by drowning at the sea-side, only 30 years [old], a brilliant man and Editor of the Medical and Surgical Reporter.

August 30: Tuesday.

Yesterday (Monday) 29<sup>th</sup> at half an hour after midnight (Sunday night), I got palp. which lasted me till breakfast time, 7 o'clock. Three times after that yesterday, I had palp. for only two or three minutes. Also last night at 2 A.M., I had it a few minutes, but drank a tumbler full of cold water and it went off at once.

There are many things of interest happening every day, but I am so busy that it seems no time can be spared to record them.

September 4: Sunday.

International Medical Congress. I have for months intended going to this Congress, which will convene tomorrow in Washington City, D.C. and have been appointed Vice President by Dr. Green, President of Materia Medica, and member of the Judicial Council by Dr. DeLazelle, President of the Obstetric Section, and am announced to read a paper, before Mat. Medica Section on Tuesday, Sep. 5<sup>th</sup> in the forenoon, but wife is poorly and I so liable to Palpitation that I shall not go, but have sent my check for Ten Dollars, and asked Dr. Green to Register me. I think it is wise to stay at home. H.C.

Catharine & Annie her 15 [year] old daughter left our services today at 3 P.M. to go to Phila. to join the other daughter Edie Mullen, and tomorrow to go to house-keeping, [Edie] and Annie to get work in stores, and the mother keep house.

I expected to go to Washington tomorrow to the meeting of the International Medical Congress, which will meet tomorrow, and in the Section of Materia Medica, I am to read an "Original" paper on "Cold as a Remedy in Inflammatory Affections." Wife's poor health and my liability to palpitation of the heart, have caused me to resolve

not to go, though I have been appointed Vice President of the Section of Materia Medica and also counselor, "one of the Council," in the "Obstetric Section."

Last Friday took Dr. Oscar H. Allis a long ride to Fort Washington. The Old Mud Fort occupied by Washington for a few days after the "Battle of Germantown." After dinner, I rode a good deal; came home at 4 P.M. very tired.

September 7: Wednesday.

The International Medical Congress in Session.

Monday last the Congress convened at Washington. I expected to go there Monday at 10:20 A.M. and to read a paper of 20 pages or more of fools cap, put into type writing, on Tuesday forenoon, the time appointed by Prof. Traill Green who is President of the Section of Materia Medica. My paper is on "Cold as a Remedy for Inflammatory Affections."

But I could not think of going while (mother) wife was poorly and did not feel as if she could let me go; so I sent my paper to Dr. Green and I suppose he had it read. The people were so eager to hear the speakers in the general meeting, as several who were announced are distinguished foreigners, that the meetings in the Sections were very thinly attended, the Reporters state.

Dr. Austin Flint, the first speaker wrote on Fever and recommended alcohol as a remedy. Shame! on him. I shall probably review it, as soon as I receive an authentic copy.

Follen went this morning to Virginia to see his friend Mr. Davis who has been writing for him repeatedly.

Catharine Himeian and her daughter Annie who have lived 5 years & 7 months with us, left Sunday, and today, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>, Teresa ----- and Ellen Clarke are here. They are English girls. Teresa will live with us at \$2.00 per week. The other will go to Wm. Yetter at 2 ½ dols. per week, both to begin tomorrow.

September 10: Saturday.

Had a letter from Traill Green this morning, says he rec'd. my telegram. Got several other letters, Dr. Maillson, Whitehead of Denver, Col.

At 5 P.M. [was] attacked by palpitation pretty severely. Have not had it since August 29<sup>th</sup>, twelve days ago, save the times not more than two or three minutes or four minutes [and] went off by taking a glass of cold water quickly.

September 12: Monday.

Rose early, 5 A.M., but had had palpitation an hour; it lasted me till 7 ½ A.M. Have had slight pains and diarrhoea today, but have read [empty space] work on Digitalis all through; had read it years ago, but I appreciate it better now, as I have had many cases of heart disease of various kinds.

Rec'd. a letter from England today, written by daughter Susan a few hours before their vessel reached Queenstown a week ago. They have had a pretty comfortable voyage.

After the morning palp. left, I was pretty well, save some diarrhoea, until 6 P.M. when the palp. came again. I did not lie down, but cont'd. to read, took supper and then read the "Evening Bulletin," and just as I was finishing it, it went off. I had, about an

hour after it began, taken 35 drops Tct. Digitalis, so too I did in the morning palpitation; whether the med. shortened it any I can't tell.

September 13: Tuesday.

Rose at 5 A.M. feeling quite well. I had to take Laudanum, and Paregoric occasionally yesterday, to keep the diarrhoea in check, & they caused me to sleep soundly.

September 19: Monday.

Have been pretty well and have done a good deal of practice and over-seeing the farm work during the past several days.

I have gone with Follen and Thomas Yocom to Conshohocken; then came home and saw 3 patients before noon. Then took an hours sleep, went to see Mrs. Yetter; then to Consho. to see the men at potatoes on the Consho. lot, then home at 3 ½ P.M. Since have been reading until I was struck by the palpitation. How long it will continue, we shall see. Have taken a big drink of cold water, but it has not stopped it, though I have had it but long enough to write this. [Will] go to supper.

Just as I finished writing this marginal note, I was taken by palpitation; it is now 5 min. past 5 P.M. Just as I was finishing supper, it went off, so it was about half an hour. It went off at ¼ of 6 P.M.

September 20: Tuesday.

Was taken with palp. as I went from Consho. to Norristown on the back road, at 8 A.M. It cont'd. but I kept up, rode, read, wrote until 5 P.M. [It] went off and began again at 6 ½ P.M., lasted till 9 P.M.

September 22: Thursday.

Death of Mrs. Lewis, wife of our farmer who lived next us in our house for several years. She went to bed well on Thursday evening at nearly 10 P.M. Before half past ten, they were awakened by her deep heavy breathing and strangling, and in a few minutes she was dead. I was aroused from sleep, went quickly, but she was dead when I got there. We buried her on Sunday at 2 P.M. She was an excellent, hard-working woman. Poor woman, she is relieved from toil and a disobliging husband.

September 23: Friday.

Last night at 10 ½ o'clock, I was called in haste to see the wife of my hired man Matt Lewis. She was dead when I got to the house. [She] was ill but a few minutes; had worked for us part of the day.

I had seen several patients through the day, and rec'd. and answered letters; was tired, but after this sudden death of this neighbor and good woman, slept but little the balance of the night.

I was about a great deal today, busy in many ways; at 5 P.M., after my work for the day was over, I had an attack which lasted me only 5 minutes.

Now, although I seem to have palp. very often, it interferes but little with either my performance of duties, or with my enjoyments.

Wife rec'd. a birth-day present, a handsome hand kerchief case, and hand kerchiefs; [got] it from Joseph's wife. She is very kind and thoughtful.

September 27: Tuesday.

I have been very busy during the past week with attendance on four aged women patients and some, only two others, and with seeing to all my other duties, farming, &c.

Joseph Patterson, a very prominent Philadelphian with whom I have been acquainted more than fifty years, but with little intimacy, died a few days ago; will be buried tomorrow.

October 13: Thursday.

It is a long time, 15 days, since I have written here, but not because I had nothing to write. I have had palp. several times.

On Sep. 28<sup>th</sup>, attended a meeting at Norristown to form a Forest Association, as a Branch of the State Association. I was made Temporary Chairman. [Present] were only about six of us.

Yesterday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, we met again to organize. I was made President. Had palp. 6 hours before getting there, but it then soon went off.

**Editor's note:** Much of the next page in the diary is cut out and missing. Several pages back in the diary is pasted a printed page announcing that "a meeting will be held at Norristown in the parlor of the Veranda House, cor[ner] DeKalb and Airy Sts., on Wednesday, September 28, 1887, at 1 o'clock sharp. Addresses may be expected from men who are authorities on the subject of Forestry, amongst whom will be Prof. J. F. Rothrock, M.D., of the University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. J. M. Anders of Philadelphia." It also names the following as members of the "Pennsylvania Forestry Association" from Montgomery County: Rev. Wm. S. Anders, Rev. Frederick Palmer, Wm. M. Singerly, Geo. W. Childs, Dr. Hiram Corson, Dr. Henry M. Fisher, Dr. W. B. Shaner, Prof. J. Shelly Weinberger, Wharton Barker, Anna Ralston, Mrs. John S. Hartranft, Mrs. Andrew A. Blair, Henry C. Hawkins, B. Witman, Dambly, Mr. & Mrs. Robert B. Haines, Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Thouron, Edwin Satterthwaite, N. Francis Wood, Horace G. Lippincott, H. S. Kriebel, Dr. Samuel Wolfe.

I have had letters this week from Sarah Dolley, M.D., Dr. Sabal of Florida, and from Jos. C. Read, my nephew, with congratulations on my 84<sup>th</sup> birthday, which occurred on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>; from Dr. Samuel Wolf [Wolfe]; Dr. L. Bodey.

Notes from Hon. Alan Wood, Charles Lukens, Dr. Purdy, Traill Green, &c. I attend about four good paying [patients] daily. Have seven at present.

It is amazing how many Medical Journals are pressed upon me to examine, and to subscribe for, besides the ones I get. Several from the "State Board of Health" came today.

October 16: Sunday.

Rose at 6 A.M.. After breakfast Follen took me in his carriage to Conshohocken to see Mrs. John Henry Stemple. Got home at 10 A.M.. Soon after at 10:25, palpitation attacked me.

11:30 o'clock. The palpitation has gone off, and I am well again.

It is now 8 o'clock. I have been for nearly two hours reading the Autobiography of Professor Samuel D. Gross, M.D., the great Philadelphia Surgeon. He was a wonderful man. I have had personal acquaintance with him, during many years. Have met him almost every year since 1860 at our State Medical Society meetings or at the Am. Medical Association meetings, and was once invited with a few friends, members of an Association for the Prevention of Insanity and The Protection of the Insane, to a Reception at his house. We spent a pleasant evening there. His book is a deeply interesting one. The labor he did was enormous, his success very great, as he reached the highest reputation possible to a great surgeon.

Follen is away. "Mother" (wife), Mary, and Frannie Corson Yocom, my gd. daughter, are in the parlor. I have heart-burn so bad that I can read no longer. It is owing to having eaten some wheat-bread at supper. Strange that I can eat with impunity every thing common at our table without an unpleasant feeling afterwards, save only wheat-bread, and that too if it be toasted.

October 17: Monday.

Up at 5 ¼ A.M. Rode to Conshohocken and visited two patients. Palp. struck me at 11 A.M. Visited one patient half a mile away. Palp. cont'd. till 11 P.M., and all this time I was up and going about. At 6 P.M. was sent for in haste to see two patients at Consho., one mine, one Dr. McKinsy's [McKenzie's]. Got home at 8 P.M. Palp. cont'd. till eleven P.M.

October 18: Tuesday.

Have the threshers here today. Had of oats 72 Bushels by noon, our whole crop, with 40 cts. = \$28.80. [They are] at the wheat in [the] afternoon.

Visited several patients today, and also went to Norristown. I hear nothing these days from W. L. Cresson, or about him.

Wheat 85 Bushels at 78 cts; sold 80 = \$62.00

October 20: Thursday.

Churned 25 pds. butter; got 30 = \$7.50.

Visited patients; also consulted with Dr. McKinsy [McKenzie].

October 21: Friday.

Visited Mrs. Stemple at Conshohocken in the morning, also Mrs. Huston before noon. At one P.M. went to Norristown, and at 2:15 took Stoney Creek cars to West Point; met Dr. Slifer [H. F. Slifer] in case of Miss Jones, aged 16, nearly 3 years ill with what I am sure was at first St. Vitus Dance, caused by worrying over school lessons, to pass well. Advised my remedy, *Cimicifuga Racemosa*. Rec'd. \$10.00 for the visit; reached home at 6 ½ P.M.

October 22: Saturday.

Today went early (7 A.M.) to Consho. with Follen. Saw Mrs. Stemple; consulted in Mrs. Cress' case with Dr. McKinsy [sic]. Saw Mrs. Slaven; wrote and sent letters.

Dined at 2 P.M. with Dr. Allis and Dr. McIntosh at Allis' home; left there at 4 ½, visited Mrs. Huston afterwards. Dr. McIntosh is a Presbyterian Minister, at 20<sup>th</sup> and Walnut St., Phila., [the] Church to which Dr. Allis belongs.

October 26: Wednesday.

Since last writing, things have transpired which I little dreamed of, not altogether since last writing either. On page 165 I have written that W. L. Cresson is doing badly. He has been in Moyamensing Jail on the charge of changing a rail road ticket date from 1885 to 1887. After being there 11 or 12 days, they withdrew the prosecution or charge, and he was let out. He was at his house Monday night, got his clothes and was sent away, South or West.

None of our family moved a finger in his behalf because he is charged with several very fraudulent acts, getting money and goods under false pretences. I have let the family reside in my Norristown House, Grand-View, for years without getting one cent of rent and have also kept the family, giving every dollar needed, save a few dollars now and then from Follen, Susan, and Frannie.

November 2: Wednesday.

I was well as could be yesterday when it struck me. Yesterday, at 10 ½ o'clock after leaving Conshohocken, I was struck with palp; lasted in the carriage ½ hour. At 2 P.M. [was] taken again; lasted ½ hour, and at 4 P.M., lasted till 9 P.M.; at 2 A.M. this morning, in bed, lasted ½ hour; never had it so repeatedly before in so short a time.

November 3: Thursday.

Quite well; rode a good deal for business matters; did some practice.

November 4: Friday.

Practiced in the forenoon. Took Dr. George Highley, Brother Charles' grandson, with me to see Mary Francis Corson, who has suffered several months from chronic Rheumatism. After seeing her, called at Albert Crawford's, to see his wife who is a sister to Mary Francis; then came to Norristown. George went in the cars to his home and I stopped with Tacie a few minutes, then came home to supper. Mary, our Mary, went to Phila. this morning, so there is only Follen, wife & self to supper. My Boyer cow escaped from the field today.

This day one year ago, Brother William Corson, M.D. died at the age of 80 years and two months, less four days. He was born August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1806.

November 5: Saturday.

Was actively engaged all day. Got palpitation at bed-time, just as I went to lie down. So went in ahead by myself. It cont'd. from 9 ½ P.[M.] until 2 A.M. on the 6<sup>th</sup>, then went off and came again in a couple of hours, but went off before day-light.

I am reading with great pleasure the "Century," which has war matters in. The present number has an account of the various movements which led the South to open Rebellion against the Government. What a providential thing that Abraham Lincoln was elected. He was a man "sent" for the purpose. Buchanan almost wrecked us. Lincoln, Stanton, Steward, Holt, Scott and a few others by their patriotism saved us.



The Forestry Association had a meeting at Jenkintown on [the] 3<sup>rd</sup>. I could not go, but Follen went, bearing with him a letter of introduction to Dr. Fisher, and they had a pleasant meeting.

November 13: Sunday.

Last night I went to bed at 9:15 and slept soundly till 3 A.M. today; then slept till six A.M. I have so often had palpitation next day after an unusually good nights sleep, that I anticipated having an attack. At 8 ½ A.M., while reading, it came pretty hard. I was very uncomfortable for nearly an hour, then ordered a carriage and rode half a mile to see a patient. Just as I rang the bell, it went off, and I have since been pretty well, quite well indeed. Have visited another patient. Took daughter Bertha with me. She and little Dorothea were here all day. Susan too was here for two hours.

Execution of 4 Anarchists in Chicago. They were hanged in the Chicago Jail on Friday last at 12 o'clock. I am opposed to capital punishment, but they were awfully dangerous men, wicked, villainous men. The Country is filled with such fellows. Nothing so promotes that kind of wickedness that they and their party exhibit, a fight against men who are employers and men who have accumulated property by means of industry and economy, as these "Unions," "Knights of Labor." I am opposed to all such combinations. Their mode of warfare is to "strike," refuse to work unless a specific rise is made in wages, and that the employer shall not hire non-union-men. An accursed state of things, when a man must be dictated to by employees.

**Editor's note:** On the same page in the diary on which the above is recorded, Dr. Corson pasted a clipping from the Sunday edition of the Columbia, Ga. Enquirer, under which he wrote, "Hereby hangs a tale. H.C." The short write-up is titled, To Make Alabama Iron. It reads in part, "The question of erecting an iron furnace in Huntsville, Ala., is no longer a matter of doubt. Mr. W. M. Cresson, of Philadelphia, representing some Eastern capitalists, has perfected all arrangements for the immediate erection of the furnace. It will be located on the property of the West Huntsville Land Company. The plans and specifications have been received, and work is to begin in February," It describes Mr. Cresson as "an experienced iron manufacturer."

November 15: Tuesday.

Went to Consho., took Matt with me; got palpitation just as I got there at 8 A.M., but as I was about to go to the South Valley Hill to see my 3 acres & 4 perches wood lot, so as to know its boundaries as Matt is about leaving me, I went on; got back at 10 ½ A.M.; visited a patient, who sent for me, before dinner. After dinner visited two more, and the palp. did not leave me until 2 ½ P.M.; then took a ride of four miles on business, feeling very well; got home at 4 ½ P.M. At 5 P.M. got it again and it lasted till 11 P.M.

November 16: Wednesday.

Rose at 6 A.M. feeling pretty well; started to Conshohocken with Follen at 7 1/2.; stopped at daughter Susan's for Follen to speak a word to her. While he was in the home, I was struck with palp. again. I said nothing about it to him. At the P.O. then at 8 A.M., Dr. McKinsy [sic] met me by appointment to take me to see one of his patients in

consultation. We went, and while there the palp. suddenly left me; [it] was with me just about an hour.

"Matt Lewis," who has lived with us as hired farmer, quit work and moved away today. Hired "Chis -----", a German from Hamburg [sic] in Matt's place. 25 Dollars per month, house rent free, and to have a quart of milk every day.

Daughter Frannie C. Day came up this evening to stay all night. Write letters daily; receive many.

November 20: Sunday.

Did much reading & writing today. Palp. began at 8 A.M., cont'd. 6 hours. Jawood Lukens & wife here in evening. Follen was "on nettles" as people say, so anxious to go see Miss Slemmer [Maggie Slemmer], whom he is courting.

November 21: Monday.

This evening Follen told us he is "engaged" to Miss Slemmer of Norristown. Her grandfather was for many years "Editor of the Norristown Register," the County Democratic Newspaper. Her father was Charles Slemmer who has been deceased for many years. Her mother was a lady from Washington City. I suspect that the engagement took place last night. No wonder he was impatient to get Jawood and Susan away earlier last evening.

Went to the City today to get some shirts.

After getting them, went to see Lawyer Heyward Drayton at his office, 706 Walnut St., Phila. Mr. Drayton is son of Senator Drayton of South Carolina, who was ostracized by the Calhoun Nullifiers many years ago, and then came to Philadelphia. Had a pleasant visit.

November 22: Tuesday.

Paid a visit to Cousin Sarah Ely, in Horsham, daughter of my Uncle Joshua Corson who lived to be 90 years old. Also, collected some money in Horsham due me for consultation with Doctor-----.

November 23: Wednesday.

Palp. for 4 hours, before I went to the City.

November 26: Saturday.

Rec'd. a letter from Son Joseph, from "Portland on the Pacific," where he is on a Court-Martial. It is a large one, 20 officers, nearly all of whom he knew. It was a pleasant meeting of friends, not so pleasant for the accused officers.

For several months I have been attending among others, Mrs. James Huston, with a disease of the heart, and she is now near death. Also for several weeks attending in Consultation with Dr. McKenzie, a Mrs. Cress, daughter of George Hocker, an old friend of mine. It seems strange to reflect that fifty years ago I attended at the birth of Mrs. Huston, and 30 years ago at the birth of Mr. Cress, and here also attended both Mrs. Huston & Mrs. Cress with their children. Both these sick women are now near death. I have a sincere attachment and respect for them and for many others whom I have known long and have attended often.

This is Mary's 35<sup>th</sup> Birth-day. It seems not so long since she was born. I was then 48 years old.

For two days it has been warm and damp. At 2 P.M. today, 62° in the shade. Though we had been wearing thick over-coats before, we today went without any overcoat at all.

November 30: Wednesday.

Went with Follen to Consho. at 7 ½ A.M. Consulted with Dr. McKenzie at 9 A.M. Home by 10; saw two more patients at Plymouth. Brought daughter Frannie Day as I came from Sp. Mill to home, before I visited the Plymouth people. At one P.M. was ready to get into the carriage to go to our County Medical Society meeting at Norristown, when palpitation struck me. As I am about as comfortable when riding as when lying down, I went on to Norris., attended the meeting for an hour, saw Dr. Ellwood, my nephew, got back home at 4 P.M. Wrote several letters during the evening to distant correspondents and went to bed at 9 P.M. It was a most unpleasant attack, and I was quite miserable. It lasted till 12 midnight. I then rose and took a drink of ice water, and was instantly well. Slept pretty well till morning.

December 1: Thursday.

Rose pretty fresh from the struggle with palpitation and work & loss of sleep of yesterday and last night. Was up at 6; visited Consho. with Follen at 7 ½, consulted with Dr. Mc. at 9; got my mail and was home before 10. Visited Mrs. Huston, who was dying at 10 ½, and Mrs. Yong and [was] home by eleven. Was in the cars at Spring Mill for Philad. at 1:41; got new spectacles in Chestnut St., and was at 1702 Arch St. by 3 P.[M.] to see Dr. Anna Lukens, who is on from N. York. At 3 ½ was to see my gd. son Hiram Corson Yocom (and the family), who is sick. At 4 was at Woman's Med. College with Dr. Rachel Bodey, who had written me that the Corporators and Faculty of the College were anxious to publish "a History" of the efforts put forth during several years by members of the State Medical Society of Pa., to induce or compel the medical profession of the State to recognize women physicians. At 4:55 P.M. took the train at Columbia Av. to Sp. Mill and was home 6 ½ P.M. Have written this since, now 8:30 P.M.

December 4: Sunday.

Went to the old Quaker Meeting today, a place to which I have been going for at least 77 years occasionally, when young, from 10 to 21, almost every Sunday; after I graduated, less frequently, because I was so much engaged in "practice." Joel Lare [Lair] preached, for the thousandth time I suppose, one of his stereotyped sermons, about "cleaning the inside of the cup," and of "sending the Comforter" which would not have been sent, if Jesus had not gone away "to prepare mansions for all those who love the Lord." There was great stillness in the house, and if I had been there for the first time, I should have been deeply impressed with both the stillness and the Sermon. Joel and myself were schoolmates nearly 70 years ago. He learned the blacksmith trade and I studied medicine. He has done well, is a conscientious preacher, married two women, both had some money, the last a good sum. For several years he has done no work.

In the afternoon, wife and self went to daughter Tacie's; had a short, pleasant visit and returned to tea.

December 5: Monday.

Nathan Dutter, Jesse Shepherd, Abram Yetter, all old, old friends and neighbors, and Annie Peters Huston, a dear young friend (50 years) are all lying dead in their homes awaiting burial. Nathan's funeral will be today at 10 A.M.

9 P.M. Nathan Dutter was buried at Plymouth Meeting burying ground today.

December 6: Tuesday.

I rode to Consho. early to consult with Dr. McKinsy [sic] in Mrs. Cress' case; then home and while preparing to send letters and pamphlets to some medical friends, at 11 o'clock, I was struck with palpitation. I could not stop and lie down, but went to mail my letters; then returned, ate dinner, and then took Mary to Mrs. Huston's funeral at 1 ½ o'clock; went with the procession to the church; then almost worn out, returned by way of Wm. Staley's whom they had asked me to visit; prescribed for him, and got home at 5 P.M. My feet were quite cold all the afternoon, and I was very miserable, but did not let the people see it, affected to be well, or rather made no complaint.

Arrived at home, I warmed up my feet, and as soon as this was done, the palpitation stopped short and I was well. Supper was then eaten and since that I have written these two pages, and now, what next? Why we are waiting for Follen and his affianced to come to spend the evening here. We have never yet seen her. It is almost time for them to arrive, and as all the hanging lamps are lighted in the big entry, the two parlors and in the dining room, I will close for the present and await developments.

10 P.M. The to-be-bride of Follen has been here and is gone. Very pleasant, almost pretty, good I think.

December 7: Wednesday.

Well, Follen brought Miss Slemmer as Jawood Lukens and daughter Susan came at the same time, at 7 ½ P.M., and as Susan had seen her a day before, we had a pleasant time. Mother had a little collation set out in the dining-room which we partook of at 9 o'clock, after which our visitor left, and we were at leisure to compare notes. We all agreed that "Miss Slemmer is a nice, agreeable, sensible girl."

December 9: Friday.

First, at 7 ½ took Follen to Conshohocken. Then, at 9 A.M., attended a post mortem examination of Mrs. Cress, Dr. McKinsy's [sic] patient, whom I have attended with Dr. Mc. for some months; hurried home and at 10 ½ left for "Wyncote" School, where Carrie Cresson teaches, near "Jenkintown Station." Reached there at noon; had dinner there. As Miss Annie was ready to take the N. York train for Boston to attend the Woman's Suffrage Bazzar [sic], I after dinner took her to the Station and saw her off; then went to Jenkintown to see Dr. John Paxson, spent half an hour with him, then came back to the School at 3 P.M. and took gd. daughter Carrie to Germantown to see her friends there. After that, called to see Mrs. Hocker, a long-ago friend. Had not seen her for about 40 years. How changed, each saw the other! Had a pleasant visit with her and her only living daughter, Martha; left there at 4:30, stopped a few minutes with my grand-niece Mrs. Warren Pley, and had a look at her two-months old daughter; then home where I arrived at 5 ½ P.M. and found all well, and glad to see me. Not [a] bad day's work for an 83 years [old] man.

December 17: Saturday.

I have done very little “practice” this week but have been greatly busy, attending to my affairs; have not had palpitation. Have had letters from two physicians, one who lives in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, the other at South Bend, Indiana, asking for my pamphlets. Have written an article for the Evening News of West Chester, in reply to Dr. Cheston Morris’ assertion that Tea is a great promoter of Consumption and has caused more deaths than intoxicating drinks.

The weather has been very mild. Have written many letters and rec’d many. Congress is in Session, and Free Trade and Tariff the themes on every tongue in Washington.

December 18: Sunday.

Was struck by old palp. at 6 P.M.

December 19: Monday.

Yesterday at 6 P.M. was attacked by my old enemy palpitation. It lasted till 3 A.M. today = 9 hours. I wrote letters throughout the evening, hoping by getting strongly engaged mentally to get rid of it, but it did not avail. Was very uncomfortable, and wide awake until it went off. I had tried drinking largely of ice-water a few times, but of no avail, until 3 A.M., when I got up and took another drink rapidly; in an instance it had gone.

Our first snow, and the biggest one I ever remember, as the first of the season. It occurred Saturday night, was at it all night.

December 20: Tuesday.

Saw two patients today, new ones, and attended Court in Norristown, [the] trial between two of our country doctors.

December 21: Wednesday.

In attendance at Court today & yesterday, in the suit, Dr. Betts vs. Dr. John Paxson of Jenkintown. Testified this afternoon on medical matters, as an expert, or rather as a man long familiar with disease, & the attendance [was] needful.

December 24: Saturday.

Yesterday, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>, by invitation of Ex Governor John F. Hartranft, and also of Judge Stinson, I went at 11 A.M. to the Eastern Hospital for the Insane, at Norristown, to examine the institution with Governor Beaver, the Board of Public Charities, and the Trustees of the Hospital. We passed through the immense buildings in the lower story, but had not time for the upper story. Had a good dinner and altogether a very pleasant time. Gov. Beaver made the whole trip, being with Dr. Chase, the chief male physician and Dr. Alice Bennett, chief female physician, on the lead of the company. There are about 1600 patients in the building. Genl. Hartranft is the President of the Board of Trustees.

I am proud of this hospital and its management. I had some agency in having it built differently from the other State hospitals, in this that it should be two-story, detached buildings, instead of one three stories high. Also that the inmates should have

employment, and also I was the originator of the measures to have a female physician for the female insane. Indeed I procured the Law, authorizing Trustees of hospitals for insane females, to appoint female doctors to have charge of them. It is therefore not surprising that Genl. Hartranft and the Trustees invited me to be present on special occasions.

A member of the B. P. Charities, Dr. Neill of Gettysburg, hearing my name, got an introduction to me that he might tell me of the value of my Dyspeptic Alkaline, or, as I call it, "Aperient Solution," which I presented to the State Med. Society many years ago.

We have rec'd. presents this evening from Bertha, white dishes with covers, &c., &c.; also a fine home made rug from Aunt Harriet Foulke.

The Norristown Herald of yesterday contained a reprint of my criticism of Dr. Cheston Morris' assertion, before the West Chester Philosophical Society, that "tea drinking has produced more deaths than rum drinking," and also that it is the greatest promoter of Consumption he has ever known.

December 28: Wednesday.

This morning at 2 A.M., lying awake in bed, was struck by palpitation, which lasted me till 4, and was exceedingly uncomfortable all the time. Finally I got up and in walking into the entry, where the lighted lamp was hanging, I could scarcely straighten myself to walk, so sick I felt, when it suddenly went off, and I was well at once. Rose at 5 ½, was off with Follen to Conshohocken, just as the sun came from below the horizon. Was about all day riding around. Three times to "Consho." and back again. Thus, first with Follen; then around Spring Mill to see a patient; then home, to Plymouth P.O., and back by 11 A.M.; then took Mother and Frannie, who with Mary and Susan, compose all our daughters, besides these were my niece Sarah Jones and her sister Hannah Schultz, and Martha and Sallie Jones, Sarah's daughter; then home again. At 4 went down again. After being there 20 minutes, I remembered that I had opened the spigot to let water into bath-tub. I flew up at once and dashed for home as fast as I could drive, fearing great disaster as I had a Kerosene, Coal oil-stove burning in the bath room to keep the water in the tank from freezing, the Thermometer standing at 18° F. at the time; also fearing a general flow in the rooms. Reached home and found that the "girl" had discovered it, soon after it began to run over the bath tub. How glad I was! Then again I had to return for wife and Mary.

December 30: Friday.

Busy practicing, and riding here and there on business, the whole of this cold day, till 4 P.M. Visited only 3 patients, went to Norristown & visited Mrs. S----- Brown with Dr. Ellwood.

December 31: Saturday.

Nothing specific has occurred since last writing, and now we are on the eve of a New Year. During the past 15 months, 38 of my Friends and old patients have passed away for ever. Last year at this date, they all seemed as likely to live and enjoy life as myself. They were all advanced in adult life and most of them quite aged.

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January 1: Sunday.

I, twenty or thirty years ago, had not the remotest idea that I would be living now. We all have had presents, Christmas and New Year presents, and have given some. Joseph & Ada sent some from 3000 miles away, and we sent to them also.

January 6: Friday.

This day has been quite rainy but not cold, and I have just come from Phila. where I went to see Dr. Bodey, to arrange about the publication of my history of the efforts made years ago to force the Medical Profession to recognize the women physicians and give them all the rights and privileges accorded to the male members of the profession.

There are now lying dead, not yet buried, four of my friends: (1) Elijah F. Pennypacker; (2) Wm. Wills; (3) Luke Davis; (4) Sarah Speelhoffer, and since New Years day, Augustus Saylor, who is already buried; all old friends.

January 7: Saturday.

Elijah F. Pennypacker, husband of my niece Hannah Adamson, buried this afternoon; meet at 2 P.M.

Follen and self left home at twelve (noon) o'clock; was at his house at 1 ½; attended the funeral; returned to the house, which was near to the grave yard; saw some of the friends; had a cup of coffee, and left for home at 4 P.M. Arrived at home at 5:30 P.M. Had a pair of fine traveling horses.

Palp. at 7 P.M. till 9 P.[M.]; again at 4 A.M., next day, till 12 noon, in all 10 hours.

January 9: Monday.

Attended funerals of Wm. Wills and Luke Davis.

January 10: Tuesday.

The palp. of yesterday and today (noted on last page) was very hard on me. Had it at 7 last evening until 9 P.[M.], then went off until 4 A.M. this morning. It was a great trial for me to dress myself. It affected me so greatly in the back of the neck that it was difficult and painful to hold my head up or straighten my back, but I got up, ate a little breakfast, and went with Follen to Consho., getting there at 8 A.M. Came home, went to Jos. Coulston's to vs. [bleed] his daughter; got home before 10, and was lying on sofa till just now when it [palp.] went off. In the afternoon, read a good deal of Canon Farrar's "Life of Christ," loaned me by Dr. Oscar Leedom. Then at 4 P.[M.] visited a patient at Sp. Mill and at 5 P.[M.] brot Follen home.

The great strike of Coal Miners.

For a whole week we have had the Newspapers filled with the trouble caused by the "Knights of Labor." A combination of all or nearly all the workmen, aggregating almost countless thousands, employed in the mines and on the trains and wharves of the Reading Rail Road Company. These men led on by a few puffed up officers of the

organization have refused to let the R. R. Co. even sell coal to "non-union-men," men who do not belong to their "Union," as they call their Organization.

The President of the R. R. Co. is standing out against their accursed demands, and the miners by thousands and tens of thousands have quit work and are idling around, doing all they can to prevent the company from getting work done by men (not of the Unions) whom they call "Scabs."

January 18: Wednesday.

Coal is now \$7 to 7.50. Thousands of miners and others out of work. People [are] anxious about coal supply; no trains coming down the Reading Road. The weather is cold; the coming night will be very cold, likely. We have not much of a supply, but we have money to buy with, even should there be a great advance in price. Some poor people have but little coal and no work or money.

This morning I went at sunrise with Follen to Conshohocken, he on his way to the City. We had his splendid mare, and she is hard to hold, so hard that I could scarcely keep her from running. Got home at 9 A.M. and directly got palp.; had another quiet horse put in, and though I felt very unable to even be up, I rode around to get men to fill the ice-house; got home before eleven A.M. Then [I] undertook to pump some water for the cows. It was too much. I felt as if I were like[ly] to die; laid me down, and it went off at 11 ½ A.M.

January 23: Monday.

The Great Strike Continued. This evening, the reply of the President of the Reading Rail Road to those who are urging him to compromise with the "Strikers" is in the evening papers, and in it he exhibits the facts and figures which justify the corporation from any disposition to yield to the unwarrantable demands of the "Knights of Labor," as they call themselves.

I do hope Mr. Corbin, the president of the P. & R. R. R. will hold on firmly.

Two more old friends gone. Charles Van Court, aged 75, who was husband of Mary Corson, whose father Benjamin was first cousin to my father, and Enoch Shoemaker of Roxborough.

Rose at 6 A.M. quite well. Just before breakfast, at 6 ½, was suddenly attacked by palp. Took 50 drops of Tct. Digitalis; took breakfast, two cups Coffee and other things; prepared to go with Follen to Conshohocken, though feeling scarcely able to walk, but knowing that I am always more comfortable when riding than when recumbent. Just as we were about to start at 7 ½, it went off, and I was well. Went to Conshohocken & back rapidly; then visited a patient 2 miles away. At 12 noon, left for Norristown to attend our Co. Med. Soc.; did a good many things before the meeting at 2 P.M. Had a very interesting discussion for two hours on treatment of Pneumonia; many taking part in it. For the last 20 years, Brother William and myself have stood as its [blood-letting] advocates, against all the rest of the Society, but today the majority advocates bleeding.

January 27: Friday.

Yesterday was cold, windy. Therm. 23°. I went at 7 A.M. with Follen in the sleigh to Conshohocken; from there to West Conshohocken, to see Dr. McKinsy [sic]; then went with him to Matsunk, and back very rapidly; then came to Conshohocken proper to see his



patient; then to Jawood Lukens' to see Susan, then home by 10:30. At eleven went to see a patient a mile away. After dinner went to Ezekiel Wood's, to see his wife; then to the funeral of the eleven year old son of Dr. Edward Livezey, deceased, who was once a student with me; was well dressed, comfortable all the time; was at the funeral only a quarter of an hour, in a very comfortable room; was quite well all the evening, and when I went to bed. But as soon as I lay down, a severe stitch occurred in my left side near the heart. It was quite severe, and though I took 1/8 gr. of morph., which made it bearable, it was quite persistent then all night. And now at 7 A.M. this day, it is still present. I have been thus particular about my work yesterday, to show that I had not been exposed unusually, save by the high, cutting wind which was bitter indeed.

After breakfast I hope to feel easier, but shall not see patients today, I think.

I omitted to state that at 4 P.M. after my return from the funeral, I was attacked by the palpitation, took 55 drops Tct. Digitalis and then began to review my paper on "the Recognition of Women Physicians." While thus absorbed, it went off in a few minutes less than an hour. During the rest of the evening I finished the papers.

The above was written before breakfast. I did not go with Follen; sent the man. After that, in a few minutes, palp. struck me. I took 50 drops Tct. Digitalis, then began to write. In 1/2 hour it went off, and strange to say, the palp. dispersed the pain in my side entirely.

February 5: Sunday.

I have been very weak for about two weeks. Else no suffering. Have had utter loss of appetite, and a sense of great weakness in my limbs. It is not "a mere weakness," but a real absolute loss of strength in the whole body. Despite its presence, I took my Ms. to Philad. to the publisher on Friday and arranged for its publication by James B. Rodgers, 52 & 54 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St. Got home fearfully weary, though I had walked only about three or four squares; slept almost none that night and yesterday, was weak, sick and relaxed to a great degree, but still about. Slept well last night; was struck by palp. at 10 A.M. today, relieved at 12 noon.

Jay Lukens & Susan, and Ida Corson from Washington were here at the time, but I did not let them know it.

Mary has just started to Phila. to see Frannie, and especially Aunt Harriet, her great friend.

Just finished two letters, one to Son Joseph, the other to Prof. Traill Green of Easton. Don't feel that I can read or write more.

February 18: Saturday.

Tomorrow will be two weeks since I have written in here, and during all that time I felt weak and miserable. No pain anywhere, no sickness of stomach but an ordinary bronchial cough occasionally from cold. At first the cough had a slight sore feeling and a tearing sensation under the breast bone; but under the influence of 1/24<sup>th</sup> or 1/20<sup>th</sup> of sulph. morph. two or three times in 24 hours, it was so seldom that it need not be spoken of. But though the cough was almost nil, the loss of appetite was so absolute that I loathed food and could take but little, and the weakness of my limbs was to me amazing. I have therefore been kept in the house nearly all the time spoken of. So indisposed too have I been to read or write that I have done almost nothing in either line. I am too

becoming thin in flesh. Do not sleep well, though for the last three nights have done very well. Rose at 7 A.M. today, took breakfast, then 1/12 gr. sulph. morph. & half teaspoonful of alcohol. At 9 lay on the lounge and slept till 10 ½ A.M.

Mother too is poorly today, though she has been for a long time, but did not get up, a wonder for her, and we are so glad that she consents to lie still one day. She has a very bad cold, but does not cough so very badly.

I have many a time had a worse cold than the present one, but in none of these times was I 83 years and five mos. old.

Death of Laurence Egbert Corson, My Nephew.

He was the youngest son of my Brother Charles Corson. He and his Sister, Mary Francis, have lived together in the homestead where they were born, a homestead entirely swept away from my brother by indorsing for his son, Richard. My Brother William too loosing all his property in the same way.

He was taken sick about three weeks ago, got greatly chilled at a vendue; was taken with a violent pain in the right side when he got home, and suffered greatly all night; was not seen till afternoon next day; was freely bled and by it much relieved. My nephew, Dr. Ellwood M. Corson had principle charge, but was so many miles away, that he called Dr. Rambo to visit him in his absence. Several times Ellwood reported his condition to me, and generally thought he would get better. Not once did I see him in a favorable condition. He died on [empty space] and will be buried on Monday next.

February 20: Monday.

Funeral of Laurence E. Corson. Follen went to the funeral, which was reported to be at 11 A.M. There was about the usual number present. He was buried in his father's lot in Montgomery Cemetery. Dull, rainy day. I was not able to go, Mother was confined to bed.

Had an interesting patient here today from Philad. Have been kept to the house, or to the house and office. I am, probably, somewhat better today. Sent up to Norristown this P.M. and had my grand-child Carrie Cresson brought down to stay with her grand mother who is almost bedfast.

February 21: Tuesday.

Carrie C. Cresson went with Follen to Consho. and will bring Frannie back from Sp. Mill. Mother & self both had, on the whole, rather good nights. But I had a fearful pain, neuralgia, in my left side over the "short ribs" when I went to bed, and once again in the night. 1/8 gr. morph. & some lemonade settled it and I slept pretty well.

The weather is moderate now. The Therm. is 43° F. now at 9:15 A.M. The heavy masses of ice every where over the ground are disappearing rapidly, so the front yard has almost a dry, spring look.

Mother is up and dressed, Mary says, so she is doubtless "better."

February 22: Wednesday.

Washington's Birth-day. While this is a legal Holiday, one sees but little to remind him that there is anything unusual going on. People generally in the Country are

at work as usual. The P. Offices are only open for a few hours, but as they are generally at the stores, they are accessible as on other days.

I felt miserable enough, but took Follen to Consho. It was a beautiful morning. About 11 ½ o'clock I got palpitation which held on for ½ hour. After dinner I concluded to go to Philad. to see the publisher of my History of the Opposition to Women Physicians, &c., now in type. So left home at 3 P.M. & saw the publisher, 52 & 54 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St., and was back at 9<sup>th</sup> & Green to take the train at 4:46 for Spring Mill. Got home pretty weary, but glad that I had arranged matters.

Strange, that since I have been so weak & poorly, instead of having palpitation oftener & longer, I have not had it from Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> until Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, and then only half an hour.

Mother is now able to be down stairs again, but coughs greatly. I am quite poorly, but do not cough much, and am not taking any medicine so as to see whether I won't have a more natural feeling.

February 23: Thursday.

Little change in either of us today. I took Follen to Consho. and brought him from Sp. Mill this evening. I have no disposition to read or write but a strong desire to sleep on the lounges.

March 1: Thursday.

I have been gradually getting better until now. I am eating pretty well; no craving for food, but no disgust of it. "Mother," too, is better so as to be "about" pretty much all day.

Nothing special to record. Rec'd. an invitation to the "Commencement" of the Woman's Medical College of Pa. for March 15<sup>th</sup>. Invited to reception given by J. L. Stewart of Erie, Pa. on March 13<sup>th</sup>, it being the Fortieth Anniversary of his entry upon the practice of medicine. Also invited by the Committee of the Alumni Association of University of Pa. to contribute to a fund of \$75,000 to be raised by contributions from Alumni. I have concluded to send my check for twenty dollars.

I went this morning to Conshohocken at 8 o'clock; then to Susan's; then to two other places; then to visit Geo. Keys; then to Plymouth to see Helen, my niece; back to dinner at 12 noon.

After dinner [went] to Tacie's; then paid coal man \$15 for her old coal bill; then to Dr. Ellwood Corson's; then to see John about selling 2 lots for \$300; then to see Dr. Stinson; then home by way of my tenants at Harmanville to get rent; home by 5 P.M.

After supper, prescribed for a patient for eczema of face, \$1.00,

I did all this so that I could pass the day more agreeably than lying on the lounge, for [it is] strange to say, it seems to weary me to read or write now, and yet, I have just written a reply to Dr. Stewart's invitation to his dinner on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and now it is after 9 P.M. and yet I feel as though I could stay up awhile yet. H.C.

March 2: Friday.

At 8 ½ after taking Follen to Conshohocken & getting home, I was struck with palp. It lasted until 12 ¾ P.M.

It seemed strange that for several weeks during which I have been poorly, I have not had a palp. which lasted more than a few minutes. Now that I feel nearly well, it tackles me again.

March 4: Sunday.

I have written several letters today, read a good deal, had Henry H. Corson, E. H. Corson's son, and Warren Poley here two hours to see "Mother & myself from 4 to 6 P.M. Also Thomas Hovenden and his wife, my niece Helen, Brother George's daughter, [were here] for an hour. Mr. Poley brought us a bottle of Liquid Food. They are all very kind in sending us "good things."

Had a letter from Joseph on Saturday; all well, &c.

March 5: Monday.

After being at Consho. with Follen and settling with John Fulmer who paid me his bill of \$33, I came home, and as I was going to B. Hill to see a man who had been beaten by burglars, at 10 o'clock was taken with palpitation. I was on the road, so cont'd., saw two patients; got home; took dinner, and lay down. At 2 P.M. [it] went off.

Follen [is] home. Anna Bacon, now Annie Neff, has written to me from 1032 Spruce St. for med. for Dyspepsia. Have just finished, at 9 P.M., my proof reading of my article; it is proved now.

March 6: Tuesday.

Took Follen to Consho.; then got Susan and came, as we went by Spring Mill home. Then went to Norristown and got my beard trimmed; then made a deposit in Bank; then went to Tacie's and got my gd. daughter Carrie to come & stay with her grand mother, run up and down stairs for her, and do all she wants, because Mary is so rheumatic in her hips, she can't go very quickly. Twice this afternoon I have had attack of palpitation, but they only lasted a few minutes each, and went off without my taking anything. But they are coming too often. I have a good appetite now, and yet I do not feel as I did two months ago. I forgot to say that I went to see my friend James Hooven when in Norristown yesterday. He is not quite so old as I am. Mrs. Hooven seemed greatly pleased that I called to see them. Mr. Hooven was not in, was poorly but is now able to go to his Furnace and Rolling Mill.

Now 9 P.M. and I will go to bed.

March 7: Wednesday.

Letters from Ada & Mary, her daughter, & Mary Cresson, my gd. daughter.

Did not sleep well last night, or rather I laid awake very long & often. Went to Consho. with Follen; got home about 10 A.M. Did some business in Consho. Went at 10 to see Dr. Eckert, the man who was beaten by the burglars. I had been in the carriage but a few minutes when palp. came on. I kept on my way to see my patient; found him better. Lent him \$3 to get necessaries. [They were] very grateful. The wife kissed my hand. They started in life after he graduated prosperously. She had money. He settled in Lancaster County where the people speak Pennsylvania Dutch, and as he could not speak it, he lost time & money there. I pity them.

Palp. cont'd. until noon and went off just as I sat down to dinner, but not till I had taken 50 drops of Tincture of Digitalis.

At 2 P.M. it came again but in about three minutes I swallowed rapidly some very cold water, and instantly it ceased.

I feel somewhat alarmed at its coming so frequently, every day now. I must try to get more sleep.

March 8: Thursday.

10 ½ P.M. Went to Consho.; then to see several persons who owe me, to Esq. Smith for rents, &c., till 10 A.M. Staid at home all day, afterward. Was very well, ate heartily. Just before going to bed or being ready for it, at ¼ before 10 P.M., got palp. [which] lasted me till now = ½ hour. I seem to notice little else than the palp. I may say in extenuation of this, that it is indeed enough to attract, absorb my attention coming as it now does every day.

March 9: Friday.

Slept none, I may say, last night. When I got the palp at 10 P.M., I took 50 drops Tct. Digitalis & 1/10 gr. morph. I think it was the Digitalis that made me wakeful. All night I lay awake, but was not uneasy; rose early as usual.

Kaiser William, the Emperor of Germany, dead, March 9<sup>th</sup>. There seems to be sincere grief all over Germany, and indeed the world over. He was out and out a military man, but yet, not a man anxious for war.

The Crown Prince, his eldest Son, has now become Frederick the third, King of Prussia and Emperor of Germany. But he, "poor fellow," is suffering from cancer of the Larynx, and can live but a short time, and the rules in Germany are that one, who has a right to the Crown, cannot reign, if affected with an incurable malady. So the gd. son of the Kaiser will be the next in succession.

This afternoon, Bertha Yocom and her children, Hiram and Georgie and Dorothea and Frannie C. Day and her Bertha and Charlie came up. I met them at Spring Mill and brought them up to Helen's, that is to say to my niece Helen Hovenden's, where they met 17 other children and their mothers and had a happy time. Mother & myself went out at 4 P.M. and partook of the good things; came home at 5 P.M. In the evening, I took the party to Spring Mill Station again, all save Bertha Day and Georgie Yocom, who remained with us.

March 12: Monday.

The Blizzard. When I rose this morning, a snow storm was in progress. The wind blew a veritable Blizzard, and the air was full of snow. All day till noon this cont'd., then the snow ceased to fall but the wind cont'd. without abatement until night. The drifts are now, 8 P.M., enormous. There has been no travel attempted today, but Follen started out at 5 P.M. to see if he could reach Spring Mill.

March 13: Tuesday.

All day, the storm has been terrific. The wind nearly 60 miles per hour. The Therm. 10° F. The snow fine and sharp, almost gritty. Follen could not get to Consho. Telegraphing almost impossible.

March 14: Wednesday.

The storm still on at 8 A.M., but as the Therm is at 25° F., I look for an abatement.

Noon. Follen went to Consho. in hope to get to the City. Therm. at 30°. But few people face the storm yet. The roads [are] impassable. The drifts larger, by far, than I have seen in my 83 years.

March 14: Wednesday.

Henry Bergh, the originator of [the] Society for the Prevention of Cruelties to Animals died March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1888, at 5 A.M., a few hours after the commencement of the great storm of wind and snow (with the Thermometer at 10° F.), which has just ceased, now, Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> at noon. I paste here an account of him, rec'd. last evening in "Phila. Ev. Bulletin."

What a valuable work he did! No one can estimate the value of it, not only in its protection of animals from cruelty, but also in its humanizing our people. From it grew the "Society for Protection of Children." It turned the attention of people all over our Country to the importance of Kindness in the treatment of all living creatures. I knew well, from actual observation, of the cruelties practiced on horses by our people here for the first fifty years of my life, and the endeavors of my Brother George Corson, and my own efforts to arrest the perpetrators of these cruelties in their vicious acts, and well do I remember the oaths and threats with which our efforts were met.

I regard Henry Bergh as having done more to spread the law of Kindness before the public, than any of [the] Preachers of the Country. "Spare the rod and spoil the child was their battle cry." How indescribably hurtful had that text been. Poor bound, girls & boys, as I knew them years ago, were fearfully abused, whipped severely, not furnished with sufficient clothing in winter, or with bed-clothes to cover them in their wretched beds. How infinitely great was Henry Bergh, when contrasted with "le nouveau riche," and vulgars, who sport at watering places & theaters, &c.

6 P.M. The Blizzard is over. Persons who went from Phila. to spend Sunday at Atlantic City, as it is very fashionable to do now, in returning on Monday, were snowed up on the road near to Ascot and Hammonton, and were kept there in the cars without food 56 hours.

March 15: Thursday.

Two P.M. It is calm. Temp. 39° F.. Water dripping from eaves. Men every where on the roads trying to make them passable. I went to Consho. with Follen this morning. Potts' men had opened the road, Turnpike, yest[erday]. The papers are filled with many accounts of distress in New York; its intercourse of their sources of supplies for three days, made them destitute of food. The stoppage of milk, en route, made such a scarcity of it, that 50 cts. per quart was given. It was starvation almost to the thousands of children dependent on it for nourishment. Oh, I can't tell the ten thousandth part of the difficulties and suffering experienced.

The people in the far "west" are joking our New York & Philad. people very pleasantly. For years we have talked so much about the Western "Blizzards" and "Cyclones," and wondered "why any body could be found willing to reside there," that now they want to have fun at our expense. The Mayor of one of those distant towns

writes to the Mayor of N. York, asking what their people, who are enjoying mild, spring weather, can send to the relief of "Blizzard stricken" N. York. "Shall they send flour, or clothes?" and end by assuring him that he may call on them for \$50. Bismarck, too, writes in the same strain.

March 17: Saturday.

Yesterday, I rec'd. from Dr. Wm. Barton Hopkins, an Alumnus of the University of Pa. Medical Department, sketches of Bronze & Gold Medals and a request that I choose one. I chose No.1, price \$50, [featuring] on one side a thistle, on the reverse "a serpent climbing up a pole." Sent my choice this morning, the last day that votes will be rec'd. What the object of having the medal is, whether as a Prize for students, or whether to be given to every one who contributes \$50 to the Alumni Fund for building a Hall to cost 75,000 Dols., I do not know,.

[Had] palp. yesterday, 16<sup>th</sup>, once in the forenoon. I got a cup-full of cold water as quickly as possible and as soon as I drank it, the palp. ceased; in the afternoon, attacked again, and again the same means relieved it at once. As I prepared for bed, it came again and lasted ½ an hour.

The loss of life (and the suffering of thousands who did not lose their lives) was frightful on both sea & land.

Today is warm, 45° and now, noon, the sun is bright; the road by our house [is] not yet opened. Roads already open are filled with "slush," knee deep.

Went to bed at 9 P.[M.], had been there but a few minutes when I was attacked by palp. again.

March 18: Sunday.

The palp. which began when I went to bed at 9 P.M. yesterday cont'd. till 1 ½ A.M. today. After it went off, I slept pretty well till morning. (Just as I wrote "morning," palp. began again. It is now just 2 P.M. Sunday, and this is my second attack today. It began after breakfast and lasted till 11 ½ A.M. Well, I may as well go on with my writing. Why does it come so often? I have quietly read "Ike Marvel" this morning before it came and again since dinner until I began to write here). Palpitation continues.

I shall go on writing as long as I can stand it. When I first quit reading, to take a turn at writing, I intended first to write to Joseph; afterwards to continue my article on Quinine, which I began a few evenings ago, then take an hour or so with "mother" (wife) upstairs, then move letters, or a turn at "Ike Marvel" again, and so on, but here I am now pretty much disabled.

Jawood Lukens and Susan were here to see us this morning, from 9 till 11 ½, and gd. daughter Frannie Yocom is here to attend to her gd mother till Monday morning. Our road still full of snow; have to get out through the fields; [the] roads which are opened are bad, as bad can be, immense banks of snow still melting in the day time, and the slush freezing at night.

The palp. cont'd. until 3 o'clock, 2 hours; went off while I was writing. Indeed I wrote & read the whole time.

March 19: Monday.

Beautiful morning, but cool, so much snow keeps the air cool. Therm. at sunrise

22° F.

I have ridden a good deal today, to Consho. with Follen, and this P.M. after a boy. I am dissatisfied with my hired man. He is unreliable, a liar & a sneak. I think he will leave me on April 1<sup>st</sup> likely, so I must get another ready.

I will sell most of my seven cattle, if I can do it at private sale.

March 22: Thursday.

Took Follen to the P.O. at Consho. While I was sitting in the carriage waiting for him to bring out my letters, was attacked with palp just then, 8 A.M. It lasted me till 10 = 2 hours. Then I rode to Plymouth and out to Emily Corson's to see her daughter-in-law, Henry's wife, slightly indisposed. Went for Follen at 5 P.[M.]; took Susan home whom I had brot in the morning, & brot Follen home.

Mary was at Helen Hovenden's to tea; there were present Emily (mother) & Emily (daughter), Walter, Henry & wife, George & wife, and Mrs. Doctor McCoy and her gd. daughter, Miss Watson, daughter of Judge Watson of Bucks Co., who had come down to see their relative Mrs. Henry Corson.

March 25: Sunday.

This has been a busy day with me, though I had palp. from 8 till 10 o'clock. After it went off, I went to Emily Corson's to see Henry's wife, in from the West, who had sent for me, professionally. From thence to Barren [Hill], now LaFayette Hill, to see Mrs. Catharine Hellings, an old friend and for fifty years a patron. After dinner, put up several prescriptions for Henry Schlater & wife, whose son came for them. At 5 P.M. visited Mrs. Hellings & Mrs. Lewis at B. Hill.

March 26: Monday.

Wrote several letters between 6 o'clock & breakfast at 7 o'clock. Stormy & snowy from the East, so did not go to Consho. "Mother" as well as usual all night & slept. While sitting in her room reading the morning paper from Phila., at 8 ½ A.M., palp. struck me. Took a large drink of cold, quite cold water as soon as I could get down stairs to get it; then sat down. In about ten minutes it went off.

Got a letter from Prof. Goodell this morning; he urges me to take strychnia and phosphoric acid to prevent the palpitations. Thinks I have suffered from the death of William, tries to cheer me, &c., &c. I do not feel able to do much, feel weak this morning, but will try to write on my Quinine paper.

March 27: Tuesday.

Went to Consho. with Follen then came back to Susan's to read my letters. In the morning paper, The Press, I found now account of the death by starvation of two daughters of our old Friend Aaron, Rev'd. Samuel Aaron's daughters, and two other daughters, dying of the same thing. They have lived since their father's death in Mount Holly, New Jersey.

All our sons were at Mr. Aaron's School for several years and knew these four girls very well. What a fearful thing! Mount Holly has a host of well-to-do people in it. But these poor girls or women seem to have concealed their poverty from them. There is also a Baptist Congregation there, and had the members known of their condition, they



certainly would not have let the children of their former Pastor have suffered thus. Mr. Aaron was one of the ablest ministers in the United States. Many a time I have gone with him to Temperance Meetings where we were both to speak. I shall probably hear more of this sad event when Follen comes home.

March 28: Wednesday.

A Refutation of the above.

I saw Morgan Wright today at 2 P.M. He had been to the funeral of the Aaron girls. The starving to death was a huge lie. He owed Mrs. Wiegard money which she could have gotten any time. Whenever she sent for any, it was always sent. Besides that she had an income of \$500 a year regularly paid her. Both those who died, were sick and attended by two doctors.

At 2 P.M. I was in Norristown to attend the Forestry Association. This cont'd. in session till 4 ½ P.M., when I went to the Medical Meeting. There were 19 in attendance, 17 men and 2 women. When I entered the room, Dr. Stiles of Conshohocken was speaking. I sat down within about 10 feet from him. He spoke in so low a voice, though far from the President, that I wondered how he came to speak so low; then Dr. Weaver, who was only across the Isle from me, spoke, and in so low a tone that I could not hear a word of it, but I really did not try to hear him, as I did not know the subject. They adjourned in a few minutes and when we got back to Ellwood's office, he told me that they were on the subject, of a banquet to me as the Founder of the Medical Society of Montgomery County and Dr. Stiles thought he would have to stop when I came in, but the Pres't. Dr. Eisenberg told him to speak in a low tone, and he thought he would not be heard by me. A committee was appointed to confer with me on the subject.

Got home at 6 P.M. At 7 P.[M.] went to see an old friend who is sick. Roads are bad as they can be. Came home very tired.

March 29: Thursday.

Not much to note. [Was] pretty busy through the day.

March 30: Friday.

Was early at Conshohocken with Follen. [A] man came to me in answer to advertisement for [a] farmer, Joseph Ellis, son of Reuben Ellis. I liked him and we made a provisional bargain. My man has been ugly and I want him away.

At 2 P.M. I was attacked; it lasted me till 5 P.[M.], but during this time I visited two patients beside one in consultation with Dr. Highley, just a matter of kindness towards him.

After supper I was attacked again, and it lasted from then (7 P.M.) until Saturday morning at 2 o'clock.

March 31: Saturday.

After the palpitation left me at 2 o'clock Friday night, I had some sleep. At sunrise, I got up, and while dressing, it struck me again, and lasted half an hour.

8 o'clock A.M. I feel, as the old people used to say, pretty "dancy." Is that properly spelled?

April 1: Sunday.

At home all day, save visiting two patients who sent for me. Wrote and read a good deal. Daughter Bertha came up early, went back at four ½ P.M. Susan was here awhile.

April 2: Monday.

Rode a great deal today, on business of various kinds, hunting a boy, going to Bank, getting Coal for Tacie, &c., &c. Lovely day.

April 3: Tuesday.

Fine day. Saw some patients; saw my men to work to clean yards, &c.; was busy all day. There seems much to attend to when fine days follow a bad late spring; wrote & rec'd. letters.

April 6: Friday.

Went this morning to see Hannah Stout whom I have visited during the last two days. She lives beyond the Broadaxe [sic] hotel [and] who has become insane. I have known her for many years, a quiet, pleasant hard working girl, she and her three brothers owning a large farm.

When I went into her room this morning, she flew out of bed and was about "to make for me," but I got myself out and closed the door. She is very strong and violent. I then arranged with her brothers that they should go to Norristown & I would meet them there. In the afternoon I went there, & to the hospital, arranged for getting her there. Came home and after supper went to Barren Hill with Follen on some business of his, a pretty heavy days work.

April 7: Saturday.

Yesterday I had arranged that Dr. Bennett allow two of her female attendants to come over with a two horse carriage (to seat four persons) in which to take Miss Stout to the hospital, to be at Stouts at 11 A.M. today. So taking Dr. Oscar Leedom with me, I was there at the time. She had barricaded her door and would allow no one in her room. Esq. George Lower was there to affirm Dr. Leedom and myself on our certificate for her removal. Her brother Henry took Dr. Leedom up to examine her, and after getting into the room, she flew out of bed to fight them, but they, after struggling awhile to hold her and the doctor being satisfied that she was insane, came down, and directly some one outside the house saw her, in her night clothes on the roof of the back piazza. As the ground sloped rapidly from the house and it was somewhat elevated, they were afraid she would jump off. Her brother Henry and Esq. Lower ran there to head her off, got a ladder and ran up while Dr. Leedom and myself went to the windows & opened them so she could get in. As soon as the men came near her on the roof, with a scream she ran and jumped to the ground; her brother & Dr. Leedom were quickly in pursuit. As she had fallen, they were close upon her when she started to run. Henry caught her at the bottom of the lawn, but she was too much for him and got him down before Dr. Leedom came up. Then he and two others secured her and brought her, holding by arms and legs, screaming, to the house. Soon the women from the hospital were there, and it was surprising how soon they not only calmed her, but dressed her and got her willing to go

with them. I held open the carriage door and she, accompanied by a friend and the two attendants stepped in and the carriage whirled away to Norristown.

Doctor Leedom and myself got home at 2 P.M. As I had gone to Conshohocken in the morning, I concluded to rest the remainder of the day.

April 9: Monday.

After going with Follen to Consho, then coming to the field near to the Toll-gate to direct the farmer, I went to Phila. to see Dr. Rachel L. Bodey about our pamphlets on the "Recognition of Women Physicians," &c., &c. Afterwards called on Drs. Tyson, Hewson and Allis, dined with Follen, called on Robt. Corson & on James Yocom's family, and then [came] home, very tired. In the evening "mother," Follen and Mary went to Jay Lukens. So I had a quiet evening to myself to write or think as might suit me.

April 10: Tuesday.

Nothing to note today save that it was so exceedingly rainy that I staid at home.

April 11: Wednesday.

Went with Follen to Norristown, reaching there at 8 A.M. Follen was anxious that I should "enter satisfaction" on two old mortgages. We did that and I settled with John J. Corson. Then deposited \$363.47 in Bank, &c., &c. Then went to see Dr. Mary H. Stinson about contributing towards the payment of our pamphlets. While there, I was called by Weber into his office to give him a list of names of persons whom I would like invited to a "Banquet" to be given to me April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Rambo House in Norristown. Made some purchases for wife and reached home at noon. While eating dinner was visited again by palpitation. This lasted me badly for two hours, when it left. In the evening we had Aunt Emily (Foulke) Bacon, daughter Susan and her husband Jawood Lukens to tea and to spend the evening.

April 12: Thursday.

Had an almost sleepless night, because of the many things which occupied my mind. I had been to Norristown and was consulted about a Testimonial in form of a Banquet to be given me by Montgy. Co. Society (Medical) and this occupied my mind greatly, but not unpleasantly. It merely carried me back through the 60 years of scenes and incidents of which I had been a part.

Testimonial in form of a Banquet to be given me on the completion of my sixtieth year of Practice of Medicine.

Rec'd. from Dr. J. K. Weaver a letter March 29<sup>th</sup> stating that the Montgomery Co. Med. Society had resolved to "Tender you a Testimonial appropriate to the Sixtieth Anniversary of your entrance upon the Practice of Medicine." Wanted reply. As it did not state what kind of Testimonial, I wrote that I could not tell how it would suit me until I knew what kind it would be. Dr. C. Z. Weber, Secretary, wrote me on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, informing me that it would be a Banquet. I accepted it, and agreed to the time & place.

He wrote me again on April 10<sup>th</sup>, asking me to name the Medical Friends whom I would wish to invite. I named my friends, Traill Green, M.D., Surgeon Dr. Henry H. Smith, Drs. E. A. Wood of Pittsburgh, J. L. Stewart of Erie, E. P. Allen of Bradford Co., Dr. Sarah A. Dolley and her son Dr. Charles Sumner Dolley, teacher of Biology in the

University of Pa., Dr. A. H. Halberstadt of Pottsville, Ehler [Dr. J. Aug. Ehler] of Lancaster, Robt. A. Lamberton, Pres. of Lehigh University, Joseph Parrish, M.D. of Burlington, N. Jersey, Dr. Thomas George Morton, & Dr. Charles H. Thomas of Phila., Dr. O. H. Allis of Phila., Dr. John Roberts (surgeon, Phila.) Dr. Walker, formerly of Woman's Med. College.

April 21: Saturday

For several days I have been more or less occupied in arranging with the Committee on the Banquet about whom we shall have there. It is an annoyance to me. I am really well, as well as old age can be, but Old Age is weakness and I therefore can't stand much or prolonged efforts of body or mind.

I think the Banquet will be as much as I can bear, if I bear it at all.

April 26: Thursday.

The Banquet – Sixty Years Labor.

**Editor's note:** Pasted in the diary are extensive newspaper articles about the banquet and about Dr. Hiram Corson's life and career. Dr. Corson writes this about the "Reception" mentioned in one of the write-ups:

"This 'Reception' at Bellevue was not given to me on account of my many years of practice, but was gotten up by the Medical Women of the Woman's Medical College, notably by the Dean, Dr. Rachel Bodey, Dr. Alice Bennett & many others (they then sought out the eminent male physicians of Philad. to join them, which they readily did), entirely on account of my labors as the leader in advocating and procuring the Recognition of women physicians by the Profession, and on account of my procuring a Law of the State to authorize Trustees of Hospitals for the Insane to appoint women physicians to have charge, medical charge of the insane of their sex. H.C."

April 27: Friday.

Up at sunrise as usual, though we, Follen, Richard C. Foulke and myself, did not get home till midnight. The Banquet last night was a grand success and a grand enjoyable affair. It began at 7 o'clock. I did not get there till ¼ of seven and a good many persons were then assembled, and by seven nearly every man and woman doctor was there.

I was in a good condition when I got there. I mean by that that I did not feel nervous, but rather felt that I could stand up and speak without notes, but did not intend to do so. After we were all introduced, we started for the Hall. When seated, the Chairman, Dr. J. K. Weaver of the Committee, spoke briefly, was followed by our President, Dr. Eisenberg, and then to the Toast

"Our Guest."

I was called on to reply. I read my reply in a clear, strong voice, without a blunder. The history of it all may be found on the next page.

I was fortunate in not having palpitation for several days prior to the Banquet-day and now that day or evening.

This is the day after the banquet. I was up early and very well. Took Follen and Richard C. Foulke, M.D., my nephew, to the cars; did a good deal besides until near

noon. Just before dinner I was taken with palp. I ate dinner with real appetite and then lay down for about half an hour. But feeling worse on the couch, I got up and as I always feel better when riding in the open air, I took Mary with me and rode in the carriage to Norristown, saw Ellwood, got fifty copies of our banquet history from the "Times" & the "Herald" offices. After supper at 5 ½ P.M., it went off. [It] was on me six (6) hours. Now at 9 P.M. am very well, but very tired.

April 28: Saturday.

Have sent papers with a History of the Banquet to Eugene Corson, Homeopathic doctor, in Savannah, Georgia, to Dr. Henry Frazer Campbell, Georgia, and to his wife the "Women Doctors," &c.; to John Williams a paper; to David Newport a paper; to Dr. Edward Sholl of Birmingham, Ala., a paper, & one to Dr. Sabal, Jacksonville, Florida. I shall send away many, but will not note them here.

May 2: Wednesday.

Beautiful weather. I have rec'd. from the Banquet Committee the letters rec'd. by them in "regrets," &c. Nearly thirty in all. A rich collection of commendations.

May 3: Thursday.

Went to Norristown by way of Plymouth Meeting and Sandy Hill to do little business matters. As I got half way, palp. struck me. Kept on, called at Tacie's and at Dr. E. M. Corson's. Then bought some plough irons and started for Conshohocken. Had gotten half way there when the palp. left, and I was well. Went to see Susan, then to P. office, got my letters, one from President Lamberton of Lehigh University, congratulating me on my works.

At one P.M. went to Phila. with a patient to see about his eyes, if they were the cause of his headache, &c.

Home by 6 P.M., pretty tired.

May 4: Friday.

Went at 7 ½ to Conshohocken with Follen, though I had palp. on me at the time, which had attacked me before breakfast. After coming from Consho., I went away to Charles Stout's to see his sister Hannah whom I had sent to the Hospital at Norristown, now home on furlough. The palp. [was] still on me badly, but when riding I am more comfortable than when lying down, so I keep on. Coming home from Stout's the back way, I stopped at Ezekiel Wood's to see his wife. While there, it went off. After reaching home, I started at 11 o'clock to see old Mrs. Maria Corson and reached home before 12 noon.

This P.M. have been well, but engaged in directing my men and in seeing to things generally; called by messenger to see my niece Sarah Garretson, at Wm. Livezey's; bled her & gave medicine.

9 P.M. About an hour ago, Follen read the 25 letters of regret, &c., from persons invited to the banquet, a good lot and pleasant to one's self-love.

May 6: Sunday.

I have just found loose in this book a communication to the "Norristown Daily

Times,” sent to me in February and in which was the cause of “Notclin” writing the article, on this same page, which was published a week ago. His name is J. Clinton Sellers. I have just now (May 6<sup>th</sup>) pasted it here to show what I said, which so pleased “Notclin.” C. Corson.

**Editor’s note:** In this column, signed NOTCLIN, the author talks about Job and Ingersoll, faith and agnosticism, which belief is right and which is wrong. “The boundaries of Agnosticism and where the realms of Faith begin. Upon which side of the boundary line will we pitch our tents?”

Follen took me this morning to Laurel Hill to see our “Lot.” There are now Caroline and Edward in it. In the adjoining lot belonging to Robert R. Corson & to the Foulke family, Edward Foulke & wife, my wife’s parents, and Susan Foulke her Aunt, and George Foulke her Uncle; also Susan Foulke Jr. her sister, all under one granite block, lying nearly flat, an odd-looking thing. Our lot is in tolerably good order. We got home at 11 A.M., came back through Wissahickon Park, a most pleasant ride. This afternoon Bertha & her husband James Yocom & daughter Dorothea have been here; left at six o’clock

May 7: Monday.

Did a great deal today; rose at 5, directed the men what to do; went to Consho. with Follen at 7; went to the “Red Frame” houses in Consho. to show Geo. Dutter what to do there to make things nice for the tenants; came back and went to the “Godfrey lot” houses to show Seth Schlater how to arrange the gates for a new fence. At 10 A.M. left for the “Broad Axe” tavern a ½ mile below to see Miss Stout & prescribe for her. Found her poorly, but her mind seemed all right. Home by noon, but saw another patient on the way.

After dinner, to Godfrey lot, Conshohocken, &c., & brot Follen home at 5 P.[M.] from Spring Mill Station, where I was getting pipes to drain cellars at Consho.

Beautiful day. Rec’d. a present from David Newport of two beautiful books, one a collection of his own poems, the other “The Pleasures of Home,” also by himself.

May 12: Saturday.

All this week since Monday, I have been wonderfully busy. So many letters, rec’d. and to be answered, the men to be directed in farming, patients to be seen every other day, &c., &c.

Today went with Follen to Consho., then called at Susan’s, got bandage for Mary’s knee, home be 9 ½. Then went to Stout’s beyond “Broad-Axe” to see Hannah, bled her & gave med; then to Barren Hill to see aged Maria Lentz Corson; home just at noon.

Afternoon. Went in the 1 ½ P.M. from Spring Mill to Manayunk, then by Horse car to Laurel Hill. Had with me ½ peck of Newport’s Fertilizer which I sowed on “our Lot.” The day at that time was intensely hot. Home by 5:20 P.M.

It is now 9 P.M., and I shall go at once to bed.

May 13: Sunday.

All day nearly arranging my books and pamphlets. There are many excellent ones on various subjects.

At 10 ½ A.M., Dr. McKinsy [sic] came to see if I would go with him over to Matsunk to see a case of Cerebritis in a girl of 14 years; returned at ½ past 12 noon. Girl [is] comatosed for days. Little hope.

Jawood Lukens & Susan, and Thomas Yocom here from 10 to 12 noon; Helen Hovenden an hour after tea.

May 14: Monday.

I have had palpitation today 2 hours.

May 15: Tuesday.

Have only seen one patient since Saturday, but have been quite busy with business matters, and had one consultation.

This P.M., went with Helen and a Mrs. Erwin to James Hooven's in Norristown to a "Woman's Suffrage" meeting. Only Mrs. Sarah Tyson and daughter, Mrs. McGinnis, Mrs. Caleb Hallowell, Mrs. Hooven and ourselves there. A pleasant meeting. Home by 6 P.M.

May 17: Thursday.

Charles Lukens Reception. Two or three hundred invitations were sent, the reception to be from 5 to 8 P.M. I went at 6 ½. Had a very pleasant time; staid one hour. It was quite a "Jam." Mary and her mother did not feel well enough to go. Follen & Miss Slemmer and Carrie Cresson were there. I knew a great many of the guests.

May 18: Friday.

In the City. Went down with Dr. John Shrawder to Dr. Morton. Shrawder has been suffering several years with hemorrhoids. He is very poor; so I got permission from Dr. Morton to send him to the Penna. Hospital. I went with him there, and got him consigned to a room. Dr. Hunt will operate on him tomorrow.

I then went away up to 20<sup>th</sup> & Master to see Dr. Bodey; got 50 more of the pamphlets. This is 200 in all I have had according to the publisher's report. From Dr. Bodey's I went to Richard Day's, and as it was just one P.M. when I got there, I took dinner. Then went to 1825 or 7 to Dr. Jn's [John] B. Roberts; staid an hour with him, then to the cars, and at 4:25 P.M. for home; arrived at 6:10 P.M.

May 19: Saturday.

Another Reception in Contemplation. I learned yesterday from Dr. Jn's B. Roberts of Phila. that the Medical Women and eminent Medical Men of Phila. design giving me a Reception. Dr. Roberts even showed me the Tickets yesterday. So it has really taken form already. More of this hereafter.

Went to Consho. and Norristown to do some business. Home by noon. Did nothing but some small matters at home and visited a patient.

May 20: Sunday.

Reading, went to meeting, writing letters. Was up before sunrise. Before breakfast was attacked by palp. severely. I had some diarrhoea and had taken some Paregoric to stop it, and was weak when the palp occurred. It lasted me badly till 3 P.M., 10 hours in all. I was real miserable all day; wrote many letters in response to congratulatory ones.

May 21: Monday.

Have been very busy. Rec'd. two letters and wrote two replies.

May 26: Saturday.

This morning I got a letter from daughter Frannie, who is in much distress about her son who injured one of his eyes last Thursday; a small piece of steel being driven into the eye deeply. She wished me to come to see him. I went in the 10 o'clock train. After seeing the eye, I went with Richard to see the doctor who has him in charge. I have a hope that he will not be blind. Left Phila. in the 2:25 P.M. train. At Conshohocken met Dr. McKinsey [sic] who insisted on bringing me home.

Had several congratulatory letters today.

May 27: Sunday.

Visited Dr. Shrawder, then went [in] P.M. to see Charley Day.

May 28: Monday.

Last night just as I went to bed at 11 P.M., had been writing letters, palp. attacked me. Lasted till 2 P.M. [A.M.]. Was quite well this A.M. Today at 1 P.M. was attacked; at 3 it left and I was quite well till 5 P.M. It is now 8 P.M., and it is still battering away.

Last Saturday I was down to see little gd. ch. Charles Day who had a piece of steel driven into his eye. On Sunday I went again but they had taken him to the "Park," so I went to Bertha's and took tea; home by 7 P.M.

Today I have heard of a sad accident to little Gilman Dolley, son of Dr. Charles Dolley, my gd. Nephew; [had a] concussion of the brain.

May 29: Tuesday.

General Phillip Sheridan not dead, but said to be: May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1888. Died at 9:45 A.M. today at Washington, such is the Newspaper announcement.

June 1: Friday.

A few days ago I heard that Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, when asked by the women who are getting up a "Reception" for me to be one of the party, declined because, he said, I was "the most persistent opponent to vivisection to be found in the State of Pa." Now as the only part I have ever taken in it is in allowing my name to be used as one of the Vice Presidents, he must believe my name to be more influential than others. After hearing that, and as he had done something for me when I had Neuralgia, I determined to see what the exercise of kindness would do for him. I bought a copy of Hiram Corson's



“Introduction to Robert Browning’s Poetry” and sent it to him with a brief note. This is the answer:

S. Weir Mitchell, M.D.,  
1524 Walnut Street,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1888

Hiram Corson Esq., M.D.  
Dear Sir;-

Dr. Mitchell desires me to acknowledge the receipt of the book which you sent him and to say that he will carry it away with him when he goes on Friday and read it as he crosses the ocean.

Yours &c.  
M. B. C.  
Secretary.

The Reception at Bellevue.

After the Banquet given to me at Norristown, on April 26<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Charles Herman Thomas, Dr. Alice Bennett & a number of other medical men & women who had been taking some preliminary steps towards giving me a “Reception,” went on to perfect their arrangements, and on Friday May 18<sup>th</sup>, I was told by Dr. John B. Roberts of Philad. that they had fixed on Wednesday evening, June sixth from half past five until eight o’clock. This is the form of the invitation, or rather this is the text of it. The real invitations were on a handsome sheet.

*The pleasure of your company is requested*

*At a reception to be given at the*

*Hotel Bellevue*

*Wednesday evening, June sixth,*

*From half past five until eight, to meet*

*Dr. Hiram Corson of Conshohocken*

*Committee:*

*Frances Emily White, M.D., Chairman*

*Alice Bennett, M.D., Secretary*

*Anna E. Broomall, M.D.,*

*Alfred Stillé, M.D.,*

*Clara Marshall, M.D.,*

*W. S. W. Ruschenberger, M.D.,*

*Hannah T. Croasdale, M.D.,*

*Henry Hartshorne, M.D.*

*M. J. Scarlett-Dixon, M.D.,*

*D. Hayes Agnew, M.D.,*

*Rachel L. Bodey, M.D.,*

*R. J. Lewis, M.D.,*

*Mary H. Stinson, M.D.,*

*Thomas G. Morton, M.D.,*

<i>Elizabeth R. Bundy, M.D.,</i>	<i>Chas. H. Thomas, M.D.,</i>
<i>Amy S. Barton, M.D.,</i>	<i>Ellwood Wilson, M.D.,</i>
<i>Ida E. Richardson, M.D.,</i>	<i>Wm. Pepper, M.D.,</i>
<i>Susan P. Stackhouse, M.D.,</i>	<i>Roberts Bartholow, M.D.,</i>
<i>Anna M. Fullerton, M.D.,</i>	<i>J. Solis Echen, M.D.,</i>
<i>Mary E. Allen, M.D.,</i>	<i>Henry H. Smith, M.D.,</i>
<i>John H. Packard, M.D.</i>	

*An early answer is requested,*

*by the Secretary*

*Norristown, Pa.*

There were at least six or seven hundred tickets sent out. The Committee had a thousand struck off, and nearly all were sent. The Pennsylvania State Medical Society enclosed one to every delegate and every Permanent Member, in the envelope which he received at the Secretary's table when "he registered." I also had privilege to name whom I might wish to be present.

June 5: Tuesday.

The Medical Society met in Association Hall, 15<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut on the morning of June fifth. At the time for offering "new business", 11 o'clock A.M., I offered a Preamble and Resolution, detailing the need of a change in the Laws, governing the Hospitals for Insane at Danville, Warren & Harrisburg, so that the Trustees would govern, instead of the Superintendents. Instantly one after another, Dr. Curwen, Dr. Schultz and Doctor Gerhard, the Superintendents of these hospitals were at me, in insolent speeches, against me, and [made] piteous, whining appeals to the Society to vote against the Resolution. My resolution was to have a Com. to memorialize the Legislature for the Law which I wished to have. The time for adjournment had passed before they finished, but the meeting desired to hear me reply, so I was allowed only ten minutes; then a vote to lay it on the table prevailed. Next day, they had an interview with my friend Dr. E. A. Wood, who had made a splendid and most complimentary speech commendatory of the much I had done for the cause of Reform and to the honor of the State Medical Society. The 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the meeting they agreed, or rather sought me with a proposition to have a Com. of 13 persons to investigate the laws in relation to the above three hospitals which give the control to the Superintendents, and the "Eastern Hospital" at Norristown, where the Trustees are the controlling power. I agreed to it, provided we should report to the Legislature instead of the State Society at its next meeting a year hence. They had to agree to it. So they have advanced me greatly.

8. P.M. After the adjournment of the State Medical Society at 5 o'clock, I took tea with Frannie Day & the family, and at eight P.M., Richard H. Day and I went to 1207 Arch St. to the wedding of my sister Mary Adamson's grand son, Joseph Wright Adamson to Miss ----- Gleasson, daughter of Dr. ----- Gleasson of Phila.

After witnessing the wedding at 9 P.M., we went to the Reception given by Dr. Richard J. Levis at the "Academy of Fine Arts." It was well attended by the members of the State Medical Society, all of whom were invited; and at 10:05, we left for home in the Penna R. R. train and arrived at 11 P.M.

June 6: Wednesday.

Reception at the Bellevue to Meet Dr. Hiram Corson, M.D. (Second Day of the State Medical Society). I attended in the morning to hear the President, Dr. Rich and J. Levis read his Address, then went to see daughter Frannie Day, and learn how her son's injured eye was getting along; then went to see Robert R. Corson & wife at 1119 Walnut St. to take "lunch" with them at one P.M. They then would have me to lie down in bed to rest myself so as to be able to bear the 2 ½ hours hand-shaking which they believed awaited me at the Reception to be given to me at the Bellevue this evening. I rose at 4 P.[M.] and Robert and myself at 5 were at the Bellevue, where I took some coffee and toast. While at it, Dr. Lamberton, President of Lehigh University, came in to see me and apologize for not being able to stay to the Reception. I was delighted to see him. While we were talking a servant came to tell us that the ladies were waiting for me. We all went up stairs and Lo! The reception room was pretty well filled, though it was not a moment after 5 ½ P.M., the time of beginning. I was led up to the corner of the room between the two corner windows and the hand-shaking began and never ceased until ten minutes of 8 P.M., when I was forced to leave for the Penna. R. R. train, which left at eight o'clock & five minutes. I stood the trial well, was not very tired when I reached home.

One Newspaper said there were 1500 people there. The truth would place the number at about, or less than, half of that number. Professor H. H. Smith and wife were the first persons to shake hands with me after I entered the Reception Room.

June 7: Thursday.

3<sup>rd</sup> day of the [State Medical] Society's meeting.

[Was] present nearly the whole day in the State Medial Society. The arrangement to have a Com. to report to the Legislature, the best organization for a hospital for the Insane was formed today by Dr. Wood. Dr. E. A. Wood on my side, and Dr. Curwen acting in behalf of himself and the other two Superintendents. Came home at 5:10 P.M. on the Pa. [Rail] Road.

June 8: Friday.

The 4<sup>th</sup> & last day of the State Soc. meeting.

I went so as to be in time for the opening 9 A.M. The Society last year shut out all "County Reports." We had a resolution passed, restoring them again in the "Transactions," and I offered a resolution hat "the Memoirs of deceased members, which were in the reports omitted during the past one or two years, be all published in the next years Transactions. That will bring in my Brother William's memoir prepared by Dr. Eisenberg, which they did not publish last year.

June 9: Saturday.

I went to Stout's to see Hannah. Then went all around my fields to see how the men had worked the corn & potatoes during my four days absence. How thankful I am that the palpitation did not trouble me during the meeting days & particularly on "Reception Day." Though this may be regarded as a hard four days work for one of my age, I stood it well. I feel just as well as when I started to the meeting of the State Society. I attended all the sessions but one, engaged in two very animated discussions,

attended a wedding, and Dr. Levis' Reception the first night, my Reception the second night, &c., &c.

My wife's fall and injury.

Just before 5 P.M., she walked from the front piazza to the gate at the road, and when she passed through the gate, fell to the ground, all her weight coming on the right hip. Some woman & a man passing at the time, helped her on to the piazza. We got her to bed, and with great difficulty examined her hip, which seemed the injured part. We could not find that it was dislocated or fractured. Dr. Charles S. Dolley and my daughter Bertha and son Follen arrived from Phila. in a few minutes. I sent for my nephew, Dr. Ellwood M. Corson, and he came in less than two hours. We examined the limb again carefully and as she had no pain of consequence when still and the feet could be put together, with but a trifle of shortening, and the hip seemed natural in form, we let it alone. On the 1/8<sup>th</sup> of a grain of sulph. morph., she rested pretty well that night, but she enunciated very indistinctly.

June 10: Sunday.

She did not seem to suffer pain if the leg were not moved, but when it was, she cried out quickly. But there was increasing dullness, no disposition to talk. I could scarcely understand her words; took food pretty well from the fork or spoon when the girls would feed her. So far as pain was exhibited, there was none. We got a bed that was adapted for the urinating & defecating without trouble. A very complete affair. All day she did not complain of pain, was quiet and slept much, without any morph.

June 11: Monday.

All day much as yesterday, two of the girls with her all the time and also Mary. She is so free from pain that we feel encouraged, especially as the pulse is natural and the respiration but little increased in frequency. But she is dull, sleeps much, speaks in an indistinct way, though those who can hear well can generally understand her. I can rarely do it; needs no morph., but takes Bro[mide] Ammonium gr. xv at bed-time; she had done that for a few weeks whenever she could not get asleep without it. It always calmed her and enabled her to rest comfortably. Dr. Ellwood M. Corson comes every day to see her.

June 12: Tuesday.

There is little change. She seems pretty comfortable, but sleeps a great deal, waking often, taking food or drink whenever asked.

June 13: Wednesday.

About as yesterday.

June 14: Thursday.

Had her bowels well moved, by the one pill taken every night, as she often used them when well. The girls still with her all the time; seemed somewhat comforted by the operation of the bowels.

June 15: Friday.

Duller than yesterday; talks even less, moans occasionally, makes few if any inquiries, but when talked to seems to be quite as well as yesterday.

June 16: Saturday.

Drew her sore leg up at the knee yesterday quite high and laid for quite a time in that way. But today she is duller than usual.

June 17: Sunday.

She is duller than at any previous time, pulse about 80, and with no apparent change from the whole of last week; takes her food, milk and eggs and rice pudding and ice cream and strawberries. As I sat by her this morning, and she lay there with her eyes closed as is the case all along, she partly opened them and asked, "Has Joseph got to his destination yet?" I said no, he only started a week ago; then she closed her eyes and dropped off to sleep again.

It looks to me, that she will not get better. She is so dull, so regardless of her surroundings, knows us all well, understands all questions, and attempts to answer, but does it so without interest, that I feel today, that she must be weakening in mind and body, and will like Brother William gradually sink away, sleep away.

It is now noon. Just as I wrote that last word, son Follen and daughter Frannie came down for dinner and said, "mother" ate a cup-plate of corn starch, several of the big strawberries Ellwood's wife ("Maggie") brought her yesterday, and a slice of milk-toast." They thought her better,

As soon as I had taken a little to eat, I went up. She was quiet and apparently easy, on her left side. She can lie only as we put her. [She is] apparently sleeping, pulse 72, Resp. 28, eyes closed. She seemed to me to have begun to die. I look for nothing now, but a gradual increase in rate of respiration, greater dullness and sinking down to death.

2 ½ P.M. I have been sitting an hour by her bed-side. She does not seem to suffer much, if any, from the hip, is very quiet, breaths easily but about twice as often per minute as she would in health. She is paler, thinner in the face, pulse as usual. I feel that she will never be better. Indeed, I have told Frannie that I shall not be surprised if she should die before morning. Have sent Follen for Susan Lukens, but just before I came down, she asked for a drink. She had taken cold water and also cold milk but half hour before. Her tongue is quite dry in the middle 2/3<sup>rd</sup>.

Death of my Friend, Doctor L. Bodey.

Last Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, she died after only one day's illness. She was originally from Cincinnati. So on Saturday, Funeral Ceremonies took place at her home Saturday, yesterday, at her home, 1400 Master St., corner [of] Master [and] Twentieth St., & then her body was taken to Cincinnati for burial. Disease of the heart, it is said.

She was Dean of the Woman's Medical College of Philad. and one of the Professors. She was the active person in getting the publication of my pamphlet entitled, "A Brief History of Proceedings in the Medical Society of Pennsylvania in the years 1859-60, 66, 67, 68, 70 and 71 to procure the Recognition of Women Physicians by the Medical Profession of the State." To which is added "An account of the measures adopted by the Society at its meetings in 1877, 78 & 79, to Procure a Law to authorize

Trustees of Hospitals for the Insane Poor, Under Control of the State, to appoint women physicians to have entire medical control of the Insane of their Sex.”

She was also an originator of the great “Reception” given me at the Bellevue Hotel, June 6<sup>th</sup> in Philadelphia. She had 1000 of the pamphlets, spoken of on last page, published and got the College and the alumni to pay for them. She gave me 200.

I have had several visits to her lately; she seemed in prime health. I did not know of her death, until the funeral ceremonies were over and her body [was] on its way to Cincinnati. Had I known of it, I would have gone to the funeral ceremonies. She was one whom I respected greatly.

I think it not improper here to break off the history of mother’s case, to insert this about a recently deceased Friend. H.C.

Sunday, 5 P.M. Helen, my niece, is here and also daughter Susan Lukens, Richard Day also. We think mother is weakening, but she seems rather less dull than a few hours ago. Has asked for cold-water two or more times. Knows us all well.

8 P.M. Mother has seemed more like herself during the last hour, than for days before; answers questions, and asks some. Talks more plainly, takes drink, &c. We had to turn her more on her side, and it gave her great pain at the knee of the injured side. That makes me feel that there is something wrong at the knee. Thermometer 72° Fahrenheit.

June 18: Monday.

“Mother” has been better today, more natural in her movements. We could understand her talk better, but it has been awful hot. The girls have fanned her nearly all the time. Can it be possible that the small amount of morph. taken yesterday, ¼ gr., could have made her so dull?

Bertha came here from Atlantic City this evening, so Susan, Frannie, Bertha & Mary are all here now.

June 19: Tuesday.

“Mother’s” foot is swelled, seems edematous; also the leg and thigh, a bad sign. She has had her bowels moved and is very weak. Her pulse is above 80, and her respirations 44 per minute; the latter [is] a bad symptom. I spoke to her in a rather low voice, but she made no sign of hearing it.

Susan, Bertha, Mary, and Helen Hovenden have all been with her all the afternoon. Follen is home from the City and is now up stairs with the others. Frannie went home with her little boy this morning, as she has been here two days and nights, and wishes to take her son to the eye doctor again. I think mother will not recover; her breathing is too fast. Her limb swelling shows great weakness, but how thankful we all are that she does not suffer great pain, that she enjoys drink and can take soft food, and broths, and knows us all so well.

June 20: Wednesday.

Last night at 10 o’clock I scarcely thought “mother” would live through the night. Helen Hovenden and daughter Susan staid with her. I was up three times and in to see her. She seems as well now as she was yesterday morning. She took milk several times through the night.

Bertha went at 12:30 to get a Nurse from the Woman's College Hospital for mother.

At 5 P.M. Susan left for home, Tacie having come down at noon to take a turn at nursing, and at 1 P.M. Frannie & Charley, her son, came. Those last two will stay with her tonight. There is little change any way.

At 6 o'clock or soon after, Follen came home bringing with him a Nurse, Miss Cam ----- from the Woman's Hospital of Phila., gotten by Bertha, at my request, as she was on her way home after I left her at the Station at Spring Mill at one P.M. Nurse's wages to be \$10 per week.

All the evening "Mother" (wife) has been just as through the day; quick of hearing, asking for what she wants, but my deafness prevents me from hearing her well; others can make it out.

The "help," Theresa & Mary, are going to bed; the nurse & daughter Tacie F. Cresson are preparing to spend the night with "mother," and I will retire. "Mother" breathing 40 times a minute, with a pulse of 80.

**Editor's note:** Also under June 20, a newspaper clipping is pasted. It is a poem by Dr. Thomas Wistar titled "RES CRESCUNT, VIRTUTE DUCE," penned in recognition of Dr. Hiram Corson's "distinguished professional labors, covering a period of over sixty years."

June 21: Thursday.

I rose at 4:45 A.M., went into wife's room; found her breathing and pulse as at bed-time. The windows were well up all over the house, and though the morning is at 70° F., the "sick room" is quite pleasant.

10 P.M. Wife has apparently not changed at all. But the weather [is] excessively hot and dry. The fan had to be kept going all the time. [Wife] takes food every two hours, milk, gruel, &c. Oh! what a sorrow it is to have her so helpless and suffering.

June 22: Friday.

Thermometer away up to 90° F. most of the day. ("Mother") wife cont'd. all day without apparent change, resp. 40, pulse 80 to 100, temp., nurse says, 100.5. When Ellwood came at noon we turned her from the left side squarely on to the back, which seemed a relief. She would lie still, breathing regularly 40 times per minute, just about one minute, and then would raise her arms and put them over her head to the back of her neck; a few respirations more, then she would bring them down, to go up again the next minute, and so it went all day.

The nurse gave her milk and other soft drinks with a "boat" and tea spoon, as most convenient, but it seems to me insufficient to nourish her if there was a prospect of her recovery. The nurse and the daughters keep her clean and comfortable as possible. She really does not appear to suffer much, she is so continually fanned and attended.

**Editor's note:** Pasted into the diary at this point is a two column Philadelphia newspaper clipping titled, "THE WOMEN WIN AT LAST. Admission of Dr. Mary Willits to the County Medical Society." The author of the report makes this pertinent

comment: "The County Medical Society has at last yielded its long opposition to the admission of persons qualified in all respects for membership, except they were women. Of course, if the County Medical Society were simply a private club or association of doctors, it would be nobody's business whom it elected, but it is not. Such a society is representative in its character, from time to time it rightly gives professional verdicts upon public matters, and membership in its ranks stands for much more than a place upon the rolls of a mere medical club."

June 23: Saturday.

All night the Nurse & Frannie were with "mother." I went to bed just before 10 P.M., was up again and with them; they took turns. At  $\frac{1}{4}$  of one o'clock this morning, I staid till nearly 4 A.M., then lay down a while. While I was lying down, the Nurse & Frannie put fresh things about her and the bed, all clean and dry. There seems a little change in her face, thinner, else the breathing and motions of the hands go on as before. Temp. of the weather 80°.

We had a letter from Ada, Joseph's wife, yesterday. Joseph went with the Troops on a 200 mile march through the Forests of Washington Territory to the "Boundary of Canada," started on the 10<sup>th</sup> and knows nothing of his mother's illness. I have written to Ada of it, but have urged her to say nothing to him until he shall have returned. It would be dreadful to be informed of it while with the troops. In her letter of yesterday, she says, Joseph had written that the General commanding, is an old man, unused to ride, and it goes hard with him. So he thinks he will stop & send some one else with the men. If so, Joseph will remain with him. There are assist. Surgeons with the various Regts. and Joseph, being with the Genl. from Fort Sherman, will stay with him.

Thermometer marked 96 at 1 P.M.

10 P.M. She [wife] has been very ill all day. As for several proceeding days, she would apparently sleep just about one minute, then throw up her arms and cry out, a kind of oh, oh, not that either, nor quite a scream. She would do that about three times, would then quietly resume her steady and not labored breathing, for about 40, sometimes 80 breaths, then holding up the arms and the somewhat distressing cry again, and so on hour after hour, day & night. It does seem strange to me how she has lived so long. But her pulse is strong, and she takes milk and other liquid food from a spoon quite well, which of course help to sustain her strength. At 7 P.M. "Dr. Ellwood" came. We had tried a little brandy, hoping it would arrest that cry; and when he came, he approved it and directed milk  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint: Brandy 1 oz. to be taken in 4 doses 1 hour apart. So that was given till bed-time and will be cont'd. through the night.

In the morning of Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 8 o'clock, I went with some letters to the P.O. Just before I got there, the palp. struck me. I jumped from the carriage quickly and went into Helen Hovenden's, to get a tumbler of ice water, which in two attacks within the past 3 weeks arrested it at once, on being taken within two or three minutes after being attacked. But now unfortunately she had no ice water, nor even very cold water, so I had to come home without it; and when I got home, it did no good. It held on all this hot day, till 9 o'clock P.M., then ceased. It was a hard day for me, being so sick and mother apparently dying.

Dr. Andrew Nebinger. His Memoir. Last week I rec'd. from Dr. Robert Nebinger a beautiful Memoir of his brother Dr. Andrew, who was for many years a



prominent member of the State Medical Society, and during the many years in which I was advocating the "Recognition of Women Physicians by the Profession in Pennsylvania, he was the orator of the profession against it. Year after year the contest went on, until finally in June 1871, we outvoted the opponents and the women were recognized. See pamphlet on that subject, published in 1888.

I then told Dr. Nebinger that I would have a Report of his which the Society refused to publish in the "Transactions," that I would have it done.

In 1877, he was put on my "Committee," gotten from the State Soc., "to Report on the Propriety of having women physicians to have charge of the insane of their sex in our State Hospitals. I think the president of the Society appointed him, in the belief that he would antagonize me. But that is what happened: When I read my report to Dr. Nebinger, he said promptly, I will sign it "without the cross of a t, or the dot of an eye [sic], if you will not allow Dr. Sibbet's proposed changes." Dr. Sibbet was the other member of the Committee. It was after this that I restored, or rather compelled the State Society to put his manuscript on record in the "Transactions." I would gladly give an account of the means I used and the time I spent, with his consent, to effect this object, but it is, the public part of it, to be found in the "Transactions" of the Society in one of the meetings which took place in Philad.

After I had done that, I told him I would make him President of the Society. That was done by Dr. Albert H. Smith & myself at the meeting held at Chester in 1878.

My Letter to Dr. Robert Nebinger:

Maple Hill, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1888

Dr. Robert Nebinger

My Dear Doctor.

I have rec'd. the beautiful book, "In Memory of Andrew Nebinger, M.D." How sincerely I thank you for the precious gift. I have already read it, and full as it is of words to honor him, there is not one too many, not one, that should not be there. I have always regarded him as one of the able good men, of the profession. We had come to love each other sincerely. There was in him no tolerance of wrong doing. I feel how truly, I can speak of him, in the beautiful language of your manly poet, George H. Boker, addressed to his deceased and maligned father.

- 1<sup>st</sup> "I loved him for his honest scorn,  
Of fraud and wrong, his tender ruth,  
That touched the lowest thing forlorn,  
His eagle grasp of right and truth.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> "I never knew his tongue to hang  
Before rich wrong in selfish fright  
But I have heard it, when it rang,  
A clarion on the side of right.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> "The clearness of his mental view  
Embraced all objects that it sought,  
And pierced the darkest avenue

- Of high and speculative thought.
- 4    “Where ev it fell a ray was shed,  
      Some truth revealed, some reason found,  
      Like a revolving light it spread,  
      The whole horizon round and round.”

The last time I saw your brother was at the meeting at Chester. Acting with Dr. Albert H. Smith, we placed him in the Presidential Office of the Society. I may say to you that I had spoken to him about his right to the office, but with his usual modesty, he said he was content to be an ordinary worker. On going to the Chester meeting in 1878, I was seated by Dr. Smith, who immediately and anxiously said, Dr. Corson have you any candidate for the Presidency? I said yes, Dr. Andrew Nebinger. “He is my man,” re replied. We then arranged that he, Dr. S. should get to be one of the Committee and move the nomination of Dr. Nebinger. He did so, and no other name was offered. The vote was unanimous.

The year of his death, 1886, was a sad one to me. Three of my life-long friends, my early school-mates, P. R. Freas of the “Germantown Telegraph,” Surgeon George Maulsby of the Navy and my loved brother Dr. Wm. Corson of Norristown passed away within a brief time in that year.

The life-like portrait of your brother which adorns the memoir, is a precious gift to me.

Again thanking you for your valuable book, and in the hope that I may yet meet you,

I am yours truly,  
Hiram Corson.

It seems strange to the reader of this, no doubt, that Dr. Nebinger’s memoir should have been inserted so as to break this narrative. But I did not expect to write so much about mother’s case, and thought I had put Dr. N.’s beyond it.

June 24: Sunday.

I was up at 5 A.M. So weary and overdone was I from yesterday’s fatigues, that I went to bed an hour after the palp. left [at] 10 P.M., and slept the whole night. When at 5 A.M. I rose, I dressed and went in to see “mother.” The nurse was there. Susan had had part of the night, Frannie part & at 3 o’clock the nurse went on duty. I saw no change in Mother, save that she was not crying out so frequently, or so loud, which the nurse attributed to having added a little more brandy to the milk.

At eight o’clock Dr. Lewis Read, my nephew, came. He examined her pretty closely. Thought there was nothing wrong about the hip, if not a fracture within the capsule. Thinks “her crying out is not an indication of pain” [and] gave instances of the same “in persons who could talk well, and who when asked why they did it, not only did not know that they did it at all and said they had no suffering at all.”

Several friends have been here this evening. Ellwood came and staid some time by the bed to watch the case; don’t expect any relief can be procured. Richard Day came up and went back again.

There seems little change in Mother's pulse, respiration, or crying out, but there is more difficulty in swallowing.

[Outside] temp. of the night at present, or rather at half past nine P.M., 79° F.

She can take but about three teaspoonsful of fluid nourishment at one time. We give her only milk & cold water now. The daughters are all here but Bertha who is at her home at Atlantic City, because her daughter Frannie is not well.

Sheridan getting well. For several days no "Bulletins."

June 25: Monday.

5 A.M. The girls and nurse (always two together) were with her all night. I was in the room at 3 ½ A.M. and found her weaker and much quieter than yesterday, crying out but seldom. There is now [a] weaker pulse, respiration [is] quicker. How sad that she should suffer so long. She seems utterly unconscious.

10 P.M. All through the day, Follen, Susan, Tacie, Frannie, Mary and myself watched by mother's bedside. Bertha had gone home to Atlantic City two days before, on account of her daughter Frannie not being well, and the family had scarcely got settled in their "Summer Home." We sent word to her husband at his place of business in Phila. and arranged for her coming to Spring Mill in the 5:10 P.M. train. She came an hour before her mother's death. We were all there, except Joseph and he so far away we could not expect him. There was no one present but ourselves. So easily the breath passed away, we scarcely knew when it ceased at six forty P.M.

When it was over and a short time had passed, we sent for Helen Hovenden who had been from the first daily asking to wait on her, [been] really waiting on her. She came as did Thomas her husband and staid with us till bedtime.

The conclusion of the children was to send for Moudy, [the] Undertaker, at Norristown. He brought with him a woman assist. or rather to herself do what was necessary.

The daughters said that Mother had impressed upon them, when she was well, several times that she wanted her funeral to be private, only a few friends and relatives.

It was concluded in the evening that Follen & Jawood Lukens, daughter Susan's husband, should write notice, or invitations to our friends and relatives, and they thus engage themselves until late bedtime. We all retired about midnight quietly and sadly.

June 26: Tuesday.

This day was quietly passed. But few people yet knew that "Mrs. Corson" was dead. The notices have not yet appeared in the papers; will be in the "Evening Bulletin" this P.M., in the "Philadelphia Press" and in the "Ledger" tomorrow. It merely announces the death. It runs thus: "The funeral of Mrs. Ann J. Corson, wife of Dr. Hiram Corson will take place Thursday June 27<sup>th</sup> at 2 ½ P.M. Internment private by request."

The entire charge of the funeral was given to the undertaker, under special instruction from us.

"Follen" went to the City to have the "Permit" obtained, and to point out the place in the lot for the grave, which we agreed to have along side of Edward's grave. This day 24 years ago, Edward died. Son Follen returned just after our dinner time. Emily Corson and daughter called, as did Dr. Oscar Leedom and some others to offer their

services. But as Thomas Hovenden and Helen were about whenever needed, we required no assistance. Inasmuch as no one is expected to come from so far away as not to be able to dine before starting, we are making no preparations for feeding people. There will be a small table ready for that, no doubt, but the prospect is that few if any will require to be fed. It will be a quiet affair we hope, just as "mother" desired.

Tuesday thus passed quickly. We had nothing going on in the house beyond the regular every day business. The hired girls did their work quickly. Daughters moved around to see to all that was needed. Frannie went to her home in Phila. for a few needed things. I wrote a few letters in response to several received. The night closed in upon us, with only a call from Dr. Ellwood M. Corson & wife, Thomas Hovenden & wife and a brief grateful letter from Mrs. Mary Young.

June 27: Wednesday.

I rose at  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 5 A.M. and have written this account of Tuesday. This is a magnificent morning, but mother knows it not. How long I shall be permitted to enjoy the beauties of Nature is an unknown and an unknowable thing. We go to bed at night and if we sleep soundly, we are just as unconscious of all that passes as if dead. If a thousand years were to pass before we should awake, we could have no knowledge that more than a single night had passed. It is no wonder then that Death has been spoken of as an "eternal sleep." "A sleep that knows no waking for ever more." It is a sleep free from joy, or sorrow, or suffering. Therefore as Death inevitably comes to all, we need not fear it, however much we regret to leave this beautiful world and our loves.

After breakfast, Follen went to Conshohocken for the mail. Helen & her sister Ida Corson called on their way to Norristown & Phila. to see what they could do for us.

Jawood Lukens went to Devon and brought Sister Emily Bacon (mother's sister) here, but took her home with him in the evening.

The Undertaker is attending to his duties. There are no persons with us today. Rec'd. a beautiful letter from "mother's" sister, Hannah Bacon, who had not heard of her death when she wrote.

The morning passed quietly. There were no strangers here. The Undertaker and his woman assistant came about ten o'clock and fixed things and at eleven o'clock every thing was completed, and we were enabled to look on "Mother" again. Oh! what a pleasant change. All the strain and sick appearance which it has borne, ever since the slight paralysis years ago, has gone and her face is smooth and placid. She looked very pretty, really very pretty, so calm, sweet-looking and so plainly and tastefully dressed, with the things she would herself have chosen. A beautiful walnut coffin, lined with fine white something, I know not what.

Frannie Day has handed me this beautiful tribute given by Louisa Alcott to her distinguished & loved mother, and as she sees so much in it that applies to her own dear mother, and as [I] do too, I paste it here as expressive of the feelings of all our family to our beloved "mother."

Jawood Lukens brought "Aunt Emily" here again this afternoon. Nobody else been here. To pass the time and dispel loneliness, I made an Index for the contents of special subjects in this diary, up to this date. It took me several hours, to look it all over. The marginal notes were my guide.

Not a trace of sadness, looking so sweet as before the sickness referred to. We were all thankful that herself had come back to us. How strange and yet not at all uncommon that, one who has been long time ill and so changed that one scarcely sees a likeness to the person when in health, is after death readily recognized as she or he was in days of health.

After we had dinner in our usual way, Tacie & Jim & Carrie, her children, and Jawood Lukens being added to our number. Helen & Ida, and Thomas Hovenden came & were ready to rescue our friends, who had special written invitations. But it was then a real rain [came] with wind, strong from the East. The friends came promptly to the hour. I need not name them. They were merely all our relatives about here and in Norristown, Germantown & Phila. My friend Dr. Alice Bennett also came and several others. Samuel Emlen from Germantown spoke very sensibly from his Orthodox Standpoint, and at 3 ½ P.M. the movement to prepare to leave the house began. By four, the carriages, all close[d] ones, eight in number, moved off. It was a driving rain, but without a great fall of water. An hour and a half took us down. The grave was lined with a brick wall higher than the coffin-box, and when the box lid was put on, flat stones were laid across from side to side on the brick wall, four in all. Then sadly we turned away. It seemed cruel to all go away and leave her, but there was no help for it, and it seemed somewhat consoling to know that there she was lying close alongside of dear Edward and Carrie, and within a few feet of Father, Mother, Uncle George and her beloved Aunt Susan Foulke and also her Sister Susan. How fast we are being gathered there. My age indicates that I will be the next.

We were home by 7 ½ P.M.

I do not think there has been so quiet a funeral about here for many years. It doubtless was a great disappointment to the funeral-goers around us. Not a word scarcely passed from one to another of those assembled during the hour, and every word of the preacher, who was up-stairs, could be heard by those below.

Lonely enough Mary and myself will feel for a time. Whenever I came home from my rides, mother was sure to be here looking for me, but if she were not, then I hunted her up, to see what she had new, or to tell her what I had. When I was at the table writing she would be moving about "seeing to things" and every now & then would stop to tell or ask me something.

Bertha and Frannie will stay all night with us. It is now nearly eleven o'clock and we will retire.

June 28: Thursday.

5 A.M. George Corson (Hicks Corson's son) came over last evening and staid an hour. We have had a quiet, restful time, instead of the hurry and bustle so common.

It rained very moderately last night, and this morning is very cloudy and dark-looking, with a pretty strong East-wind. Thermometer, 63° F.

Follen, Susan, Bertha, Frannie & Mary are all here. Tacie and her two children will be brought down this morning. They are James & Carrie. The two young girls, Mary & Anne, are at West-Tower Boarding School.

June 29: Friday.

Last night just as I was undressing for bed, I was attacked by palp. It lasted me

one hour. I slept none till 3 o'clock this morning and was up at 5 A.M.

After breakfast, Bertha went with Follen to Philad. on her way to her home at Atlantic City. Her daughter Frannie now ---- years old was not well yesterday and so her brother Thomas, who is younger by a year or more, had to stay with her and the other children and in that way they were both kept from the funeral.

Evening. The day has been dull and a little rainy. Frannie Day is the only one with Mary & myself now. It seems wonderfully lonely without mother now.

Rec'd. from surgeon Richard J. Levis today a photograph of himself, with a very nice, almost loving note. They were very grateful. Also a letter from Phebe Roberts speaking kindly and affectionately of "Mother," of her pleasure in being with her when young and of her respect for her, all her life; also one from Dr. Charles Herman Thomas; one too from Ada, Joseph's wife, & one from Dr. Maulsby's widow, Dr. Lipscourt, Shellyville, Tennessee, & Dr. Furey, Norristown.

June 30: Saturday.

Letters from Dr. Sumner Dolley & his mother [and] Dr. Carroll, Hatboro, [and] son Joseph. He is on an Expedition in Washington Territory. His letter was written the day Mother was hurt. He sends much love to her. We have not had any word sent to him about her death. We don't want him to know it till he gets to his home where he can have privacy. It would be sad to hear it when with the troops. How sad he will be!

I went with Follen to Consho. and from thence went to Roxborough to get a bill, then to Wm. Harners, then home.

P.M. Went to see Hannah Stout, below the Broad Axe. She is a patient who has been insane, but is now out of the hospital under my care.

Home by 4 P.M. Did nothing more but read and write till 10 P.M., bed-time. Had some letters today & wrote only one.

July 1: Sunday.

Very cool, 60° F. Jawood & Susan Lukens and "Aunt Emily" came at 10 & staid till noon. Mrs. Cresson senior and her daughter Mary called a few minutes.

I have rec'd. a good deal of David Newport's "Indices Historical & Rational." This is an interesting little volume, showing how the Doctrine of the Trinity came about, and showing too that the "Immaculate Conception" and many other ridiculous beliefs of the present day became interpolated with the simple history of Jesus of Nazareth. Showing too that the "Gospel according to John" is a very suspicious narrative. David Newport is a very eminent Preacher, among Hicksite Friends, who lives near the "Willow Grove" in this County; is an acquaintance of mine, and was at the "Reception" given to me a few weeks since, at the "Bellevue."

10 P.M. Mary and myself are all alone in this big house. Follen went away to Norristown before dark. Richard, Frannie & their son Charley went at 7 ½ P.M. to Philad. The man is at home, next house, and the girls have gone to walk & to Meeting.

I have never felt so lonely since we have lived here. When dear wife was here, it was very different. We sat on the front piazza Sunday evenings with no sense of loneliness.

I have read a good deal of David Newport's interesting "Indices." They show much research, and a great deal of common sense and logic on the part of the author.

July 2: Monday.

At 2 A.M. I was taken while awake in bed, had been awake two hours, with palp. Got up at 4:35, dressed and went to the barn just after sunrise. Asked to have a horse put to the carriage. Beautiful morning. Went at 6 o'clock to look for a hay-maker. Young Carpenter would come for \$2.00 per day. Came home, set three men to work. Saw a poorly clothed man looking at my man mowing. Hired him. Find he is a good worker at hay. Went with Follen to Consho. Palp. still on me. Bro't Carrie Cresson from there to be with us a few days.

At 9 ½ palp. suddenly left while I was yet from home. Had not lain down at all. Rec'd. letter of condolence from our old friend Catharine Harman, from Wernersville, a Summer Resort in Berks Co.

Dr. Ellwood Corson, my nephew called at noon.

July 3: Tuesday.

Last night, at bed time, I took Bromide Ammonium gr. xv. Slept the whole night, until "break of day" without once awaking.

July 4: Wednesday.

I got along very well yesterday. The men took in several loads of good hay. I rec'd. beautiful letters from Dr. Wolfe of this County, Dr. E. A. Wood of Pittsburgh, and others. Wrote some letters.

Splendid weather. Hay dries without trouble. Nothing to record save that it has been a very quiet 4<sup>th</sup> of July here and our men, four of them, have gotten some excellent hay into the barn. Very cool, pleasant day. Got several letters.

July 5: Thursday.

Men worked at the hay, No trouble but to cut it, and haul it to the barn, weather so fine. Men [are] at the hay. I visited Hannah Stout & Thos. Maulsby. Did nothing in the afternoon. Can't read much, because I can't put my mind on it.

July 6: Friday.

Mary took Follen to Consho. Before she came back at 8 A.M., I had palpitation, but as I wished to go to Bank to deposit two checks, and also to go to the Hospital to see Dr. Bennett in relation to the filling of the Chair of Chemistry in the Woman's Medical College, I went to Norristown with the palpitation on me. Went to Bank, then to the hospital & had a talk with Dr. Bennett. Then finding that it was the monthly, or 3rd monthly meeting of the Trustees, I sought an interview with Senator Ross of Bucks Co. and had a talk with him in relation to the change in reference to our three State hospitals. I want the Trustees not the doctor to govern & manage them. It was a satisfactory interview. He promised me his aid. I reached home at noon. All the afternoon, I was engaged at keeping the men busy here & there in getting the hay, raking, &c., &c. Still the heart kept at its work, beating 150 to 160 times per minute. Of course walking or exertion of any kind increased it to 180, &c. It left me at 9 P.M., but I did not sleep till midnight.

July 7: Saturday.

Was busy all day out doors, having one man at this work, another at that, a third at hoeing corn, a fourth at re-raking the hay-field, which I thought they had not cleaned properly. It amazed me to see how much I accomplished by just managing for them, economizing time and directing their labor in the best way.

Jawood Lukens & Susan spent the evening here.

July 8: Sunday.

Beautiful day; wrote letters to Son Joseph, Hon. Geo. Ross of Bucks Co. (Senator), Emeritus Professor Henry H. Smith, M.D., Phila.; Dr. Weidman, Reading; Dr. Jacob Price, West Chester. These letters were in relation to an attempt which I shall make to alter the Laws which give "Superintendents" control of Hospitals for insane people. I am just laying the foundations for building upon.

Read some of David Newport's "Pleasures of Home" and Prof. Hiram Corson's "Introduction to Robert Browning's Poetry."

In the evening, Dr. E. M. Corson & his Sister Ida came in, and soon after a brief time then all left, and Mary and myself were left alone. It was lonely enough.

[Wrote] letters also to Dr. G. Belton Massay, Phila. and [to the] Corporators of The Woman's Medical College, Phila.

July 11: Wednesday.

Last night, or rather this morning from 1 ½ A.M. till 3 A.M. had palpitation. Had slept well up to that time.

Sent reply, & a pamphlet to Rev'd. Sheeleigh. Have been very busy with the farming and with reading Prof. Hiram Corson's Introduction to Browning's Poetry, & also David Newport's two books. Mr. Sheeleigh wrote to me to know about the poetess of Whitemarsh Township, Susan Wilson, Mrs. Susan Lukens. I am the only person who can tell him of her.

July 12: Thursday.

Slept pretty well last night, in all about 5 hours. Up at 10' before 5 o'clock, went out to see the man. He was up, the boy not, though the boy is 21 years of age, he says. We want to have our grain cut & bound by the "Reaper & Binder" today.

Palp only 2 minutes., a glass of ice water arresting it.

July 13: Friday.

Rose at 5, even at 4:45. The morning was fine. After an early breakfast, rode out to Helen's but did not see any one, [they are still] in bed I think. As I returned, palp. attacked me. I said nothing to Follen about it, though I rode to Conshohocken with him on his way to the City. Got two letters from Son Joseph, one written on July 5<sup>th</sup> immediately on his arrival at home, from his 25 days Journey to the line of the British Possessions, North from the City of Spokane & Fort Sherman; the other next day after receiving my letter that his Mother was deceased and buried. They were affecting letters. I, after reading them at Susan's, went to my wheat field and staid an hour with the workmen; then [went] home & to bed at 11 ½ A.M. The palp. left me. Since then, I have been engaged all the afternoon, directing the field hands; wrote to several friends in reply to theirs.



July 17: Tuesday.

Was pretty well on Sunday & Monday; one spell of palp., but quickly got a tumbler full of iced water and drank it, and instantly it went off.

Yesterday rec'd. a letter from Joseph who said he would start for our home on 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>, yesterday or today. So we will look for him next Monday or Tuesday.

I have so many things coming to my mind at night that I get but little sleep.

July 20: Friday.

I have been pretty busy since last writing, at various matters and in correspondence. This morning I went with Follen to Consho. on his way to the City, as I do nearly every morning, and as he stepped into the Post Office, palp. struck me; I came directly home without telling him. It was just 8 A.M. when it began and it lasted until 11 A.M., 3 hours. After noon, I visited a patient beyond the Broad Axe Tavern, &c., &c.

Expect Joseph on soon. Had letters from himself & wife today, also from Mrs. Dr. Allis and another.

I have written a paper for the "Medical Times" of Philad. and one for the Philad. Press, on Hospitals for the Insane Poor.

July 23: Monday.

Yesterday and Saturday I had attacks of palpitation, but as I was able to get a glass of ice-water quickly, it went off immediately on its being swallowed. So it was not on more than a minute or two either time.

Frannie Yocom came here Saturday evening, fresh from Atlantic City. Yesterday, Sunday, I staid at home all day, arranged my medical Journals in the office, &c., &c.

Ida Corson & Thomas Hovenden spent the evening with us. Weather is cool & pleasant.

He [Joseph] was six days, night & day, in the Rail Road cars. He got to Follen's office five minutes after he had left for home at 3 P.M. [He] then went back to Broad St. depot, took the cars to Conshohocken and reached here by Cab at 5 P.M. He heard nothing of his Mother's death until he reached Ft. Sherman, after his return from the trip with General Carlin's forces to the line of the British Possessions, 200 or 300 miles north of the City of Spokane. He then applied for "a leave," and now he is here. He looks well, but brown as a mulatto almost.

July 24: Tuesday.

Joseph went with Follen to the City. I had palp 13 hours.

July 25: Wednesday.

Joseph went with Follen to see his Sister Frannie Day at Germantown. They took a place there for a year a week ago.

July 26: Thursday.

I went with Follen to "Consho.," then home and Jos. and self went to Norristown on business, returning just at noon.

I have had many letters this week.

July 29: Sunday.

Yesterday we finished our grain-gathering, the wheat & oats. Nothing of consequence happened here last week, save that Joseph came home, and there was an encampment of Veterans of the late war, and volunteers, thousands, on the heights above Norristown. This day [a] week there were many thousands of country people there to see them. I did not go at all while they were there. They disbanded yesterday.

Joseph & myself went with Follen to Consho. There I was struck with palpitation while at the P. Office. We drove to the Pa. depot & got glass of ice water. I drank it rapidly and in about 2 minutes after, it went off. So we went to Norristown where I did much, saw several friends; got home at 11:15 A.M. Since last Monday [I] have been going around a good deal & have been pretty well, very well and active.

August 5: Sunday.

Splendid morning. [It] has been quite dry & yesterday was 91° F. in the shade, but as we had a shower last night, the morning is delightful.

Twice the past week I was struck by palp., but getting to ice-water quickly and drinking rapidly a tumblerful, it instantly "left."

Frannie Yocom went home yesterday.

August 9: Thursday.

Nothing new since last writing save that my first Cousin Sarah Corson Ely, daughter of my Uncle Joshua Corson and Hannah Lee Corson, and wife of Gilbert Ely died last week and was buried at Horsham Meeting Graveyard, Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>.

Joseph, Follen and myself went to the funeral, to the house, the grave, and returned to the house, where we had the pleasure of seeing several of our relatives.

No palp. for more than a minute or two since the 25<sup>th</sup> until yesterday, the 10<sup>th</sup>. I have been doing a good many things, but of practice little, don't want to do any.

Yesterday at 5 A.M. was sent for to attend Orlando Rex's wife. I did not like to go, but he was so anxious for me that I went, knowing that she was always quick about her labor. Sure enough, it was born before I got there. I delivered the Placenta; all well.

Joseph & Follen have gone to the "Park" & to look in the Zoological Garden. [They] went in the carriage.

August 16: Thursday.

Went today with Susan to Phila. to Gutekunst's to have photograph taken. Temp. at the nineties. I was too hot and sweated when I was "posing." We came from there just at noon, to the Broad St. Station P. R. Road; took lunch, then at ½ past one P.M. "Aunt Harriet Foulke," as Mary calls her, arrived and for whom we were waiting. At 2:30 we got aboard the train for home. Before it moved, palp. attacked me. I could not get a tumbler full of ice-water, my remedy, as the water there had no ice in it, and so I had it on till 9 P.M. It was so hot and the heart battered away so fiercely all those hours that I was uncomfortable enough.

August 17: Friday.

Went to F. Bacon and to Richard Day's with Joseph today,

August 18: Saturday.

Visited several patients today; also saw one old man in consultation with Dr. Ellwood M. Corson in Norristown. Aunt Harriet is here and daughter Bertha came up today.

August 21: Tuesday.

Bertha Yocom Senior came on Saturday, and Aunt Harriet Foulke on Thursday last. So we now have those two friends & relatives & Joseph with us making us quite comfortable. Follen went as Delegate to the Convention of the Republican Party, to Doylestown yesterday, with Dr. Leedom & Wm. Livezey. When he got back at 4 ½ P.M., his fine mare was sick.

August 23: Thursday.

Am about to sell my land gotten from the Dull Farm. Joseph & self went down to Roxborough to see Henry Thomas, to come make [a] fence. The politicians are becoming very busy now.

August 24: Friday.

Joseph & Follen went at 7 A.M., the former to Beach Haven to see Professor Joseph Leidy, and the other to Atlantic City; will probably stay all night. I took them to Spring Mill, then went to Conshohocken & got the mail, then to see my 5<sup>th</sup> Av. lots; then home by way of the Garretson lots. Susan soon came up, and Frannie arrived directly on foot from Sp. Mill. Susan took Aunt Harriet home to dinner, and Frannie Day & myself rode around the country on business of mine till noon.

August 25: Saturday.

[Had] palp. twice today, but only for a few minutes. I put it off instantly by drinking each time rapidly a tumblerful of ice-water. Went to the Hospital. Miss Bennett [was] not at home. Saw Hannah Corson, my niece, she is Supervisor in the department for females.

August 27: Monday.

Went to Norristown & to the hospital; went to Stout's, Joseph along, in the afternoon; then to see Dr. Newberry who is suffering from an injured hand,

August 28: Tuesday.

Had palp. an hour last evening. Joseph & myself rode to Norristown & other places.

August 29: Wednesday.

Aunt Harriet, Frannie Day & Susan Lukens & Joseph all here to dinner. Frannie went away at 4 P.M. and Jay Lukens came up and staid to tea. So we had Aunt Harriet, Susan, Jawood, Follen, Joseph, Mary & myself to tea.

August 30: Thursday.

At 9 ½ A.M., I took Aunt Harriet to the train at Sp. Mill to go home. Follen &

Jos. saw her off at Broad and Market St., Phila.

As I brought Joseph & Follen from Spring Mill, palp. struck me at 4 ½ P.M., just half a mile from home. It lasted until just now, 8 P.M. = 3 ½ hours.

August 31: Friday.

Last Day of Summer. Did a good many things today. Joseph arranged through Follen to take the 11 A.M. train for Fort Bridger tomorrow, via St. Louis, Denver, &c. There he will stay with his mother-in-law's family & his wife & children who are there. After resting a few days, he and Ada and their children will go on to Fort Sherman.

September 1 : Saturday

Joseph went at 8 A.M. from Conshohocken.

Henry Dull is dead. Dr. Edwin C. Leedom is now the only school-mate I have left. He is one year younger than I am. H. Dull was one year or thereabouts older than myself.

September 2: Sunday.

This morning early, 8 o'clock, Follen had his fine mare geared to our best light wagon & took me by way of Conshohocken to the "King of Prussia," to where my old friend, my early play-mate, Henry Dull lay dead. A good number of respectable friends & neighbors were there, several of whom we knew. Henry had become poor and for the last year "a great trouble," as people say, not being able to "help himself." We were home in time for dinner.

During the afternoon, I wrote some letters, and just as I finished tea, Mr. John Wood, Mrs. Capt. Mauch & Mrs. Merryman, his two sisters, and Mrs. John Wood, called and spent half an hour. Then Mary and I were alone till 8 o'clock. We sat on the front piazza and talked. At 8, Dr. Ellwood M. Corson & wife called and spent half an hour.

10 o'clock P.M. Have finished a long letter to Joseph, and now for bed.

September 3: Monday.

At 2 A.M. got awake and in a few minutes got palp. Got up and went down stairs to the refrigerator in the piazza to get a tumbler of ice-water, as that has often put it off at once. It failed; went back to bed, and laid me down on my left side as usual. Am well as usual now at breakfast time.

September 4: Tuesday

Up at 5 ½ A.M. Wrote late last night, but it was only late as 10 o'clock. I wrote two articles, one entitled, "How and When were Building Societies introduced into Conshohocken?" The other a letter to Senator Dachrodt of Northampton County in relation to my efforts to alter the Law controlling the Hospitals of Danville, Warren and Harrisburg.

September 5: Wednesday.

Twice today I was struck with palp. Got ice water without delay, and a tumblerful rapidly drunk put it off at once.

September 6: Thursday.

Professor Hiram Corson & wife came to see us at eleven A.M. Had a very pleasant visit from them until 5 P.M., when Follen took them and Susan who had been with us all day, to Conshohocken to see his Sister Mrs. Scholl. While talking with him at 12 noon, palp. struck me. The ice water put it off for half an hour, when it returned. I, having in the meantime resumed my writing, again tried the ice water, but it failed. Went to bed at 9 P.[M.]. It went off at 10 P.[M.].

September 7: Friday.

Was awake most of the night. I had drunk so much ice-water (3 tumblers) and so rapidly that it affected me unpleasantly.

Nine P.M. Went with Follen to Conshohocken at 7 ½. While at the P. O. at 8, was attacked with palp. Came home, stopped at three places, laid down at 10. It went off at 11 A.M.

Was in the office [this] afternoon arranging and indexing numerous papers, so as to clear my drawers & table somewhat. How many things I found which I had almost forgotten. Worked at it faithfully till 5 P.M. Felt very well considering how much the palp. has battered and thumped me this week.

Wrote a series of letters last night & this morning. Rec'd. a book today sent to me by Dr. Mary T. Davis of Knoxville, Tennessee.

September 8: Saturday.

Robt. R. Corson & wife home from Europe today. [Was] quite busy till noon, going to Consho., Norristown, &c. At 12 ½ as I came from Norristown, got palp. just before I reached home. Lasted half an hour.

September 9: Sunday.

Evening, 9 o'clock. This day Mary, Thomas Yocom and Bertha Day went about 8 o'clock to Germantown, to take Bertie home. The other two returned before 5 P.M. After Supper at 6, Follen went to Norristown to see Maggie. It is a cloudy dull evening following 24 hours of almost continuous rain. Thomas Yocom, Mary Corson, my daughter, and myself read in the Bow, or Bay window till night shut off the page, then talked an hour, then read again till now. Walter the man, Mattie & Mary the girls all went to the Methodist Church to hear a woman lecture on Temperance. It seems fearfully quiet, almost solemn here, so after I write a letter or two, I will be off to bed. Thomas is closing all the shutters this very minute.

Wrote a letter to a Senator in Lancaster, and one to my niece Sarah Dolley, M.D.

September 11: Tuesday.

Went to Consho., then to Sp. Mill & brot Frannie & son. Then [went] to Norristown after a girl. Did not like to have her, too young. [Was] home by noon. Men threshed 14 Bus. seed wheat, 90 Bushels of oats. [It] rained all afternoon. At 7 P.M., while reading the Bulletin, was attacked with palpitation.

September 12: Wednesday.

The palp. which struck me yesterday at 7 P.M. cont'd. till 2 o'clock this morning,

a period of seven hours. Did not get a wink of sleep during that time. Was up at 6 this morning. Feel pretty well, but tired.

September 13: Thursday.

Was at Conshohocken & Norristown this A.M. At home all the P.M. managing the men & directing affairs.

Only Mary & myself in the house all this evening. The two girls go home to stay all night, and Follen is away to see Miss Slemmer. I see no sense in his going so often.

September 18: Tuesday.

There is not much to record since last writing save that it has rained nearly ever since, and that we had Jay & Susan & Thomas Yocom with us on Sunday afternoon, and that I yesterday rec'd. from the Woman's Medical College a notice that I had been appointed by the Faculty to represent the Medical Profession in a speech on the 13<sup>th</sup> October, in memory of Dr. L. Bodey recently deceased, and who bore so conspicuous a part in the "Reception" given to me in Phila., June 6<sup>th</sup> last. It distresses me that I do not feel qualified to perform the duty. I have so written just now to the Dean, Dr. Clara Marshall, who politely notified me.

September 19: Wednesday.

Palp. yesterday 2 hours. I was with Dr. McKinsy [sic] going to see a sick friend, when it struck me. I said nothing but cont'd. a mile with him, saw the old friend of my younger days, Mrs. Hannah Conard whose groom's man I was, more than 58 years ago. Then came home a distance of 4 miles, seeing one patient on the way. Took a glass of ice-water on getting home and the palp disappeared in a few minutes.

Went to Phila. at 8 A.M. Called on Dr. Henry H. Smith, Emeritus Professor of surgery in the University of Pa. and had a pleasant talk of nearly an hour. Called on Dr. Clara Marshall with whom my business specially was. [She was] "not at home." She had gone to Washington to the Medical Association of Specialists, &c., &c.

Called on Dr. Charles H. Thomas; spent 10 minutes; on [to] Dr. "Tom" Morton, a great surgeon; spent ten or 15 minutes. He gave me a brief account of his projected work in favor of women doctors for the women insane. He is fairly in for the work.

It is now 9 P.M.. Follen is away; the girls who live in [the] next house, go away to stay all night. So Mary & myself are alone.

Sold 3 of my cows yesterday. Have only two now.

September 21: Friday.

Got \$4500 in cash for my Dull lot today.

September 22: Saturday.

Went with John J. Corson to see houses on which to take Mortgages. Did a good deal today. Sarah Pennypacker paid me a visit today. She is Sister Mary Adamson's gd. daughter. A very fine girl. Teaches Art in Phila.

September 23: Sunday.

Have read and written much today. Letters also to Joseph Reed in Florida, to

Son Joseph in Idaho, to Frannie in Germantown. It is now 9 o'clock P.M. and Mary and myself have been alone all the evening. It is awfully quiet as we sit here writing.

September 24: Monday.

Just as Follen and myself were starting to Conshohocken, I was struck with palp. I went on; then went from Consho. to Norristown for some seed, timothy, &c.; did other matters. Came home and just as I rose from the lounge to take dinner, it left me.

September 29: Saturday.

Have been quite busy all the week seeing to many things. Nothing of note has occurred. Have rec'd. many letters. Have written to several Senators & rec'd. replies, concerning my wish to have the office of Superintendents of Hospitals for the Insane abolished & they confined to medical duties.

Today there has been an immense demonstration of veterans in Norristown. Never has any one even seen such a vast multitude of people on Main Street as were there today. Mary and I have just come from witnessing it. It will doubtless [be] well described in the newspapers, and I can paste the accounts here.

Follen, Jawood Lukens, Susan his wife and Frannie Yocom, Bertha's daughter, went to West Chester this P.M. to stay all night and return tomorrow. The men went on horseback. Susan & Frannie in a carriage.

September 30: Sunday.

Mary and myself have been alone today, save having a few callers. I also went with Dr. Highley to see his patient by his request.

I have written a great deal, and Mary & myself arranged hosts of letters in my new Letter book.

Follen got home at 4 P.M.

October 7: Sunday.

10 P.M. Frannie Yocom (gd. daughter) has been with us today. I have written an article on the propriety of changing the government of the Hospitals for the Insane at Harrisburg, Danville and Warren to that at Norristown, to be published in the "Medical Times" of Phila. Have been at home all day, reading and writing, save an hour or so at Friends Meeting, Hicksite.

October 8: Monday.

My Birth Day. Born Oct. 8, 1804. Every member of my Father and Mother's family is deceased. How long I shall remain here no one knows. What great changes I have seen in the habits of Society, in the population of the neighborhood. In the erection of bustling towns all over our County; in Rail Roads through it in every direction; in the terrible frequency of deaths by Rail Roads explosions, by suicides and murder.

My Family today consists of Follen, Mary and self. [We have] two men, a woman, Mrs. Matilda Haigh [Haight] and her six year old son, Charley. The men are Ellwood Dutill, a very good worker but intensely disagreeable to me, and Walter Merryweather, a Scotch or English "Boy" of 21 years.

At 9 o'clock this evening I was attacked with palpitation. Instantly I went to the refrigerator and rapidly drank a tumbler of ice-water. In a minute more it left me. I had been engaged in writing for the Medical Times.

In Memory of Dr. L. Bodey. On page 268 I have noticed my invitation or rather appointment by the Faculty of the Woman's Medical College in Philad. to address the audience to be assembled on October 13<sup>th</sup> in the College in honor of Dr. Bodey. There are others to speak, but I was to represent the Profession. I declined and Dr. Henry Hartshorne will perform the duty. Afterwards I wrote out some thoughts expressive of my feelings in relation to the heroism and self-sacrifice of the woman who could thus turn her back on the ease and pleasure which attends on her who yielding custom and the conventionalities of society takes no special heed to the appeals of reformers in society. I have high respect not only for Dr. Bodey, but also for all those women who early devoted themselves to the study of medicine in the face of scorn & opposition in order that the cause of Woman's Rights might be advanced.

October 14: Sunday.

I had palpitation 10 minutes last night between 9 & 10 P.M. of Sat. 13<sup>th</sup>. It was after I had gone to bed. I got up and after a few minutes took some ice-water, then lay down and in less than 15 minutes from the attack was relieved.

October 15: Monday,

I had been at court morning & afternoon, as a witness. Read pretty late.

October 16: Tuesday.

Went to Court. Came home to dinner. Soon after dinner had palp. 12 hours; had not slept well last night, perhaps that was the cause of the palp.

October 18: Thursday.

Went to Court this morning. [The] case was put off; home by noon. Took a short nap after dinner. At 2 P.M. got up, went out and directed the men. At 3 ¼ P.M. was attacked by palp. I have had it now 15 minutes. It is still battering away. Four o'clock less 15 min. it stopped.

Follen's Engagement dissolved by mutual consent.

He told me that two days ago. It seems that she is not well, suffers from some internal disease, and both herself and mother think it would be a source of unhappiness to both of them, Follen & Maggie, if she should become still more affected so as to have a long chronic illness.

There is good sense in that. It shows a purity of character and feelings highly commendable. With persons of their ages it need not, should not be a cause of distress. Their love and appreciation of each other can continue.

I have had to spend about \$27 for Tacie besides an order for two pair shoes at Fulmer's for the two daughters, to prepare them for return to school.

October 21: Sunday.

Visited Mayor Wm. H. Holstein and wife at their home at 3 P.M.; had a pleasant time, listening to their recital of the perils and labors they underwent during the War



when they were for months & months waiting on the wounded in tents & camps after the great battles. After a plain, good tea, I reached home soon after the night came on. Wrote [a] letter to Joseph in [the] evening.

October 22: Monday.

Sent letter to Dr. Robt. A. Lamberton, Pres't. of Lehigh University, with photograph of self, also [a] letter & photograph to Dr. Levis, Ex President, Pennsylvania Medical Society.

Rode a good deal today and did many things, but not so much as on last Friday in Phila. [Had] palp. a few minutes on Saturday.

October 28: Sunday.

I was greatly engaged all last week, reading, writing to persons in reference to the Reform I wish to make in the management of our Hospitals for the Insane, by taking all the work from the physicians save the medical, and giving to the Trustees the entire government.

Had letter and Reports & "acts," and By-Laws of Morris Plains Hospital from Dr. James S. Green of Elizabeth, a Trustee. Letters too from Dr. Joseph Bodine of Trenton, N. Jersey Letters also from Dr. Thomas & Lamberton and others.

The last page looks bad, or badly. I am almost inclined to cut it out. Jawood Lukens, Susan & Thomas Yocom were here today, no other company.

On last Friday night I lay awake until 3 o'clock, then got only an hours rest before rising.

Saturday [it] was raining and I staid in the house all day and read and wrote much. All that day was very quiet. At supper time, at 6 P.M. I had better say, I was struck with palp., and it never left me till seven o'clock this morning. Not a wink of sleep had I till 5 o'clock and then a mere dose for half an hour. I feel badly enough. It went off after I got up for morning. Had been up several times during the night, but as I had no ice-water, I could not use it with effect as I have so often done.

Was at home all day, save an hour when I rode out to see a sick child of a poor Doctor, gratuitous.

October 29: Monday.

Very rainy; at home nearly all day. Was at Norristown & Conshohocken in [the] afternoon.

October 30: Tuesday.

I concluded on rising, as the weather was clear and pleasant, to go to Bethlehem to see Robert A. Lamberton, formerly for seven years a Trustee with me at Harrisburg Lunatic Hospital, and now President of Lehigh University, who has L.L.D. to his name and therefore we call him Doctor Lamberton.

Follen did not like that I should go alone, so with only a few minutes to get ready, he went with me. Before 10 ½ we reached Bethlehem, took a carriage to the University, saw Dr. Lamberton, who seemed quite happy to see us and was gratified to have an opportunity to talk with me on the War I am waging against the Superintendents to take all duties from them save that of the medical care of the insane. He informed me that

their Board of Trustees are a unit in approval of such actions. He wishes me to point out to him exactly what I want, to write what kind of Legislation we should have, general or local. I told him it should be a general law for every hospital for the insane in our State. He was of that opinion too, but spoke of certain difficulties. For one, that the Norristown hospital Trustees did not wish any change in theirs. Nor do I unless it be something which they have found to be necessary.

I shall therefore write to him, after seeing Genl. Hartranft about it, just what change, if any they desire. If none, then our Bill should be a copy of the Norristown "Act."

Leaving Dr. Lamberton after a half hours talk, we were driven to the Eagle Hotel in the Old Bethlehem, and there called on Mrs. Read, my niece by marriage. Had a pleasant visit with her, dined there, took a walk about the Old Town and through the Moravian Gravyard, where every memorial stone lies flat on the mound over the grave, and all are nearly alike, and at 2:25 P.M. left for home, reached home just after sunset; ate supper and then began this writing.

October 31: Wednesday.

Rose well as usual this morning. Wrote one letter to Dr. Waugh, went with Follen to Conshohocken, on his way to Phila.; visited Mrs. Emily Corson to whom I was called on my return home.

Frannie came to see us. When she left for home, Thomas & Helen took her home and took Mary along. I went for Follen. He left after supper, and as I was alone with little Georgie Yocom, I spent the time till 9 o'clock writing letters to

1. Dr. Henry Frazer Campbell of Augusta, Georgia & put up a photo for him;
2. a letter to Dr. Seip of Easton;
3. Dr. Ayres of Pittsburgh;
4. Dr. Henry S. Smith of Phila., the last three in relation to my efforts to change the laws of the State Hospitals for Insane Poor.

November 2: Friday.

Have had occasion to write today to

1. Samuel Wolfe, Skippack;
2. E. A. Wood, M.D., Pittsburgh;
3. Mrs. Margaret Churchwhite [Whitechurch], Pres. Women's Christian Temperance Union, who wants me to prepare a paper declaring that alcoholic stimulants are not needed in medicine, and citing eminent medical men who thus believe;
4. Isaac Roberts.

Also sent Mrs. Churchwhite [sic] my Report on The Recognition of Women Physicians, &c., &c. Also sent Dr. Wolfe Morton's Report to the B. P. Charities, trustees and superintendents, at Harrisburg, and which takes ground in favor of Women Doctors for the women Insane, and in favor of abolishing the power of Superintendents and making them subordinate to the Trustees, as advocated by me.

November 4: Sunday.

This morning at 8:40, Mary & I started in the carriage to make a visit to my niece

Hannah Adamson Pennypacker, widow of Elijah, and mother of Caroline, Sallie, Elizabeth, Margaret, Sumner and Elijah. All of whom we found at home but Sumner. We stopped at George Mulvany's, at Valley Forge, as we went up. Saw his wife, formerly Phebe Roberts, sister of my once friend Isaac Roberts from whom I bought more than a hundred building lots many years ago, and by which I have done well. We found her pretty poorly and aged, but still with her old-time pleasantness.

We had an exceedingly pleasant visit at Pennypacker's until 3 P.M. when we left for home. It is getting too dark to write, but I want to say more. They are all smart and intelligent. Sumner is in Florida or Georgia, I forgot which.

We reached home a few minutes before 5 P.M.. Very weary I was.

November 5: Monday.

Was so tired I could not get sleep for quite a long time, but then slept well. Slept pretty well last night, but was fearfully tired when I awoke this morning. 5 A.M. Have done little more than the usual drive to Conshohocken & home. Then wrote five letters to send to Plymouth mail, one to Dr. Traill [Green], one to Dr. Lamberton, one to Dr. James J. Green, one to Dr. Morton, one to Dr. Seip, & one to Carrie Pennypacker; then visited Mrs. Emily Corson.

Sent Reports to Dr. Ayres & Dr. James Green made by [the] Board [of] Public Charities in favor of Women Physicians, & against Superintendents having any other duties than those given to them by the Trustees of the State hospitals for Insane.

November 8: Thursday.

The Presidential Election is over. It was held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and already we know that Cleveland [sic] has been defeated, an ending which I scarcely expected. The Republicans have elected Mr. Harrison of Indiana, grand son of Old Tippecanoe, who was President many years ago for whom I then voted. He lived but a short time after he took the oath of office.

This has been a most energetic campaign. I voted the Prohibition ticket of the Prohibitionists. There was only one other prohibition vote at our polling place.

At 4 P.M. yesterday, I took cars at Sp. Mill for Phila. to a small dinner party at Dr. Charles Herman Thomas, 1807 Chestnut St. Arrived at 5 P.M. as requested. At six, Dr. Levis came. We had a pleasant time at dinner from 6 to 7 ½. At 8 I left for the cars at 9<sup>th</sup> & Green. Was home at 9:15. Did not sleep well

Went early to Consho. with Follen. Returned speedily, and at 9 A.M. was off to Norristown, taking Mary with me to have a tooth extracted, and Georgie Yocom to get a pair of shoes. Her mother wrote her yesterday to come home to get shoes, and she was afraid her mother would want her to stay. So she cried about it a little and I told her we would get them in Norristown. While she was selecting a pair, and I was standing by her, I got palpitation. I went to deposit in Bank, see Mary get her tooth out & some other matters and reached home ¼ before 12 noon. At 3 P.M. Dr. Allis & Wm. P. Livezey called and in pleasant conversation with them I, as is usual when engaged in conversation, felt greatly better. They left soon, and again I lay down, and was wretched enough. At 4:15 P.M. I resolved to go for Follen as I am always so much better when riding. While waiting at Spring Mill for Follen, I engaged in conversation with a friend, and the palp. disappeared before Follen reached us.

It is now 8:15 P.M., and I have been quite well since the palp. disappeared.

For the last month or six weeks, when the palp. attacks me, and I rapidly swallow a tumbler of ice water (which has so often cured it in a moment almost). As soon as I have drunk it, I feel as if I should belch, and have a choking feeling, but can't belch until I put my finger far back in my throat, when instantly I belch up a whole torrent of gas now. I never used to have this feeling. What causes it now?

November 10: Saturday.

After supper after doing some trifling things in the office, palp. struck me. [I] hastened to the Cistern and drank about 2/3 of a tin cup of water; [it] did not stop. Went into the house and threw myself on the lounge. Instantly it stopped. This was about 8 P.M. I had been reading all the evening.

November 12: Monday.

Slept pretty well but did not get to sleep until after midnight. Yesterday morning at 9 o'clock, I went to General John F. Hartranft's to see him about his views in relation to the 4 State Hospitals for Insane which have Superintendents. He is in accord with me in the importance of divesting the Superintendents, Chief Male Physicians, of all duties save the medical. Also to have women physicians in every one of the hospitals. Had an interesting half hour with him.

Came back to Dr. Ellwood Corson's office where I was struck with palp. The ice water failed to stop it. [I] rode home, and despite all I could do, it lasted until 8 P.M., a little over nine hours. I was very uncomfortable most of the time, though when engaged in writing to friends, which occupied me for two or three hours, did not mind it much.

After many hours, I got up quickly from the lounge and drank a large tumbler full of cold water and instantly it stopped. I had taken ¼ gr. sulph. morph. & three doses infusion Digitalis.

Wrote a letter after it left, then at 9 P.M. took 20 grs. Bro. Ammonium & went to bed. This morning rose at -----

November 15: Thursday.

This has been a very wet day. Strong wind from the East. I sent one of the men with Follen and myself remained in the house reading and writing. After dinner took a nap on the lounge, but at 2 P.M. was awakened by a knock, and on opening the door, was confronted by Lieut. George Burnett of the 9<sup>th</sup> United States Cavalry, who wished me to examine an inguinal hernia, which had so disabled him as to procure him a "leave" of 4 months, and as that was nearly run out, he wished me to examine him and give certificate of disability and need for extension of "Leave." This I did. He gave me an interesting account of his quieting the Chiefs and 300 Fighting Bucks in Colorado, and disbanding a force of white men, who were en route to whip or murder the Indians, and who were wholly ignorant of the large body of Indians who were in the canyons in ambush, and who but for his interference would have murdered the whole white party. The affair had been caused by the murder of some Indians, peaceful ones, by these whites. When shown the danger they were in from the large force which the Indians had collected, they surrendered to Lieut. Burnett 125 ponies which they had taken from the Indians which they slaughtered and fled as fast as possible from the region. This was in Colorado,

close to the Utah line. I had seen commendations of this prudent and successful work of Lieut. Burnett, months ago when it occurred. It really averted what would have been called an Indian War but which would in reality have been the out-come of a wanton outrage by whites on peaceful Indians.

Lieut. Burnett's Father's family I have attended for many years, and he took counsel of me about the propriety of entering at West Point after his graduation at Conshohocken High School. It was by a fall or blunder of his horse in [the] dark night while on this rapid ride of 65 miles through the almost wilderness of Colorado in twenty four hours that he rec'd. the injury which resulted in "Rupture." I was much interested in this and after we had separated, I rode over to the store to get some fools-cap paper, and just as I was paying for it, at 4 P.M., the palp. struck me. I went in to my niece Helen Hovenden and drank some cold, not ice water, but it did no good. The palp. cont'd. until 7:45 P.M. As soon as it went off, I began this writing.

I lose but little time with the palp., as I continue to read and write till it goes off, if it be not in the sleeping hours.

November 17: Saturday.

Visited several patients this A.M. At 2 P.M. rode to Conshohocken in the carriage, got daughter Susan Lukens, and went to Bryn Mawr to see Mrs WhiteChurch, [sic] who wishes me to answer in writing certain questions in relation 1<sup>st</sup> to the propriety of abstaining from prescribing alcoholic medicines. She wishes answers that they are never needed; 2<sup>nd</sup> that if even useful, we have perfect substitutes; 3<sup>rd</sup> that the use is dangerous, by producing a craving for such stimulation, &c.

I took with me my Address to the State Medial Society, as its President in 1853; also my Report on the use of stimulants by the Profession, made to the State Med. Society in 1869, from which she may select what may be valuable to her, visited Mrs. Ellen Wharton, born Nugent, widow of Capt. Wharton, and daughter of my old friend, George Nugent, of Upper Merion. We also saw her daughter, wife of Moore Wharton. Mrs. Wharton Senior is the woman who was tried at Annapolis in Maryland, some years ago, for the killing of General [Ketchum] of the Army, in Baltimore. I was at the trial, as was Brother William. They are pretty poor.

We reached home at 20 min. of 6 o'clock

November 22: Thursday.

Went to Doylestown at noon from Ambler, by cars. At the depot at Doylestown, Doctor Swartzlander met me, and took me to his house to dinner. There were three other doctors there. After dinner I went to the next house to see Jim Ruckner whom I have not seen for more than fifty years. How changed from the young, stalwart, active man of half a century ago!! old now, feeble, deaf. Then went with Dr. S. to the Hall, and staid in that cold place till 4 P.M. listening to Essays by Dr. Walters [Joseph B. Walter], Foulke, Swartzlander & three others; then called on Cousin Hannah White, where I also found Cousin Hester Rice, both Uncle Joshua Corson's daughters. Then took the cars for home at 4:40 P.M. by way of Norristown.

I ought to have said that yesterday, just as I was to have started at 4 P.M. to Phila., I was struck with palp. which lasted me only an hour.

November 24: Saturday.

I went to Phila. to see Dr. H. H. Smith about the best way to begin my attack before the coming Legislature against the Superintendents, or rather to effect reforms in management of four of our State Hospitals for the Insane. Reached home at 6 P.M.

November 25: Sunday.

At home nearly all day; rainy; read a good many pages of Robert Elsmere, some med. Journals too, and have finished my 4<sup>th</sup> letter this evening, one to Joseph, 1 to Dr. Halberstadt, 1 to Dr. Stewart of Erie, one to Aunt Harriet. Now to bed.

November 26: Monday.

Stormy with snow all night. As I was undressing for bed last night at 10 o'clock, palp. struck me. There was no cold water upstairs, so went down, unbolted doors to the Cistern house and drank copiously, but without avail; returned to bed, got up in half hour and took  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. sulph. morph.; [went] back to bed. In 10 minutes the palp. went off. Then I was awake nearly all the time, though easy, till 3 A.M. this day when I was struck again. Jumped up and drank largely of cold water which was at hand, and by the time I was done drinking it, the palp. disappeared. Slept some before "getting up" time.

December 1: Saturday.

Midnight. I have been greatly interested in reading "Robert Elsmere," by Miss Arnold, a novel, and read tonight until 11 o'clock. Just as I closed the book to go to bed, when I was feeling as well as ever in my whole life, palpitation struck me. I at once got a tincup-ful of water, and drank it, but it kept on. In half an hour I took  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. morph. In less than five minutes more it went off. That was half an hour ago.

December 2: Sunday.

Nine o'clock P.M. This morning, after an almost sleepless night, got up quite well. Soon as I got down stairs at 7 o'clock, palp. came again. Again I drank a tin cup of water and instantly the palp. disappeared. I ate breakfast and at 8  $\frac{1}{2}$  A.M., it came again; again resorted to the cold water and in a few minutes was well.

At 10 A.M. went to Friends Meeting to hear John J. Cornell preach. Preach he did and ably, a regular Robert Elsmere Sermon, after the latter had abandoned the Church.

In the afternoon at 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock went to hear him discourse on Temperance at "Friends Meeting." A fine address it was to a good audience.

Robert Elsmere's teachings and the teachings of John J. Cornell, a Hicksite preacher, are just about the same as regards their estimate of Jesus Christ, and of what constitutes religion. Their views accord with mine, with mine as I have held them for half a century. I will try to carry them with action hereafter as faithfully as possible. There must be no yielding to wrong doing.

I paste here a Criticism on Robt. Elsmere, a novel by Mrs. Humphrey Ward.

December 7: Friday.

I went this morning with Follen to Consho., then took the train to Phila., where we arrived at 8  $\frac{1}{2}$  A.M. Went immediately to see Prof. Horatio C. Wood and had a half

hours talk with him concerning the proper plan to get a "Report" from the Com. of 13 appointed by the State Medical Society, to ascertain whether the Organization of the State hospitals for the Insane Poor at Harrisburg, Danville, Warren and Pittsburgh ought not to be changed, and their organization made to conform to that existing at the Eastern Hospital in Norristown.

He had never been in these hospitals, and yet because of the management at the Phila. Alms House hospital for the Insane under the Directors, where he thought the Physicians were too much controlled, he was opposed to our State Hospitals being controlled by Trustees. He listened patiently to my account of the working of both plans, and the greater success of the management at Norristown, and he yielded to my invitation to visit the Norristown Hospital with me next week. I feel confident that he will be with us after that visit.

I bought some clothes at Wannamaker's, spent a couple of hours with Daughter Bertha Yocom, visited Friend's School at 15<sup>th</sup> and Race St., then took the cars and reached home at 6 P.M.

December 10: Monday.

Yesterday was Sunday and I read and wrote nearly all day. Frannie Day & Charley, Jay & Susan, Thos. Yocom & Frannie were all here in the forenoon. I took Frannie & Charley to Sp. Mill to the cars at 4 P.M. That was all the riding that I did. I awoke this morning at 2 A.M. After being awake a short time, palp. struck me. Had no cold water handy, and so, when I got it, it was too late to stop it. So in an hour took a quarter grain sulph. morph., and in a minute afterwards it stopped.

At 6 ½ A.M. while reading, palp. came again and as I had no very cold water, all my drinking of it was of no avail and it lasted till 11 ½ P.M. I took no medicine but was most of the time in bed.

December 11: Tuesday.

Weather wretchedly dull. Was up at 6. Very dark at that time. Went with Follen to Conshohocken; he then to town, I to home.

December 12: Wednesday.

At six P.M. just as I finished supper, I got palpitation. I jumped up, rushed out to the Cistern and drank half [a] tin cup of water. It did not stop it and I felt that I was to have it, probably all night. [I] stepped out of doors to come round to the dining room door, and before I reached it, the palp. was gone.

I rode to Consho. this morning, then took Dr. Walter to Norristown. [Was] home by noon. Went to Henry Hellings to see his sick wife at 2 P.M. It was after that while at supper that the palp. came.

December 14: Friday.

Therm. at 21° F. Went to City at 8:45 from Consho. Took Green St. car to Robert R. Corson's office, 119 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St. He then went with me to Ledger Buildings to see Mrs. Sarah Fraley Hallowell, the assistant editor, and left with her a paper on "our Hospitals for the Insane Poor," in two parts. Then went to see Dr. Massey [G. B.

Massey], 1706 Walnut St. Then at one, went to depot, 9<sup>th</sup> & Green, for home at 1:45 P.M.

December 15: Saturday.

Slept well last night. Rose feeling very well this morning. Breakfast was ready at 7 ¼ o'clock, and just as we were sitting down, I was struck by palp. Ate breakfast, after trying in vain to stop the violent heart action by a glass full of cold water. Then in half an hour or more it went off while I was lying on the lounge. But I did not feel as comfortable as usual for an hour or two. At 9 A.M. went to Consho. Got letters from Dr. H. C. Wood, Dr. Linnæus Fussell [Fussell], and an "Invitation" to a surprise party to Dr. I. Z. Coffman, Phenixville [sic], January 1, 1889 at 2 P.M. at the House of Dr. W. H. Mosteller [Mausteller ?] to go with all who come to Dr. Coffman's House. I shall be pleased to go. Dr. Coffman graduated during my first year at Lectures at the University of Pa. [The invitation was] signed,

Dr. F. M. Heckle,  
Dr. W. H. Mosteller  
Phenixville, Pa.

I forgot to say that Dr. Fussell's [sic] note was to inform me that Senator Cooper of Media would meet me at the Continental Hotel for Consultation about the change which I desire in our laws governing four State Hospitals for the Insane, at noon Wednesday next, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>.

December 16: Sunday.

Went to bed last night at 9 ½. Slept well till one o'clock this morning. After lying awake half hour, palp. struck me. Took a tumbler of very cold water, which was ready, but it did not stop. After lying ¼ hour, got up & took another drink. In ¼ of an hour [it] went off. Feel pretty well this morning.

December 18: Tuesday.

Yesterday was all day steady rain, & I was at Consho. with Follen, then to Norristown and home by noon. At 4 ½ P.M. went to Spring Mill for Follen.

This morning rose at 6:30. Went to Conshohocken with Follen; rec'd. seven letters at Post Office. One from Son Joseph, containing Postal Order for \$25, present to give to Tacie, his Sister, as she may need it. [Others from] Drs. Smith, Styer & Ayres, and Moses Auge, complimenting me on my recent papers in the Ledger of 15<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> on Hospitals for Our Insane Poor, and Dr. Griswald, thanks, &c., for a letter and pamphlets sent to him by request.

I will get copies of my papers and paste in here.

While reading these letters, after reaching home, I was at 11 o'clock struck with palpitation. It held on, despite the drinking cold water, until after I had finished dinner at 12:25 o'clock. Then as soon as I finished, it went off.

December 19: Wednesday.

Up at 6 A.M. Took Follen to Consho. Got my mail and came back immediately. Got ready & went in the 10 A.M. train to Phila. Stopped at 119 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St.



Spent a brief time with Robert R. Corson. Then went to the "Continental" to meet Senator Cooper of Delaware County, who had appointed to meet me there at noon.

As I was on my way to Philad. and half way there, palpitation struck me. The Senator failed to come. I waited. The palpitation [was] on me till 12:30. When my nephew Dr. Charles Dolley came to me. We had a pleasant talk. Then I left for home. At 2:10 P.M. was at Sp. Mill. Then at 2:30 at home, lay down, got asleep. Now 4 P.M. palp [is] gone.

8 P.M. After my palpitation went off, I started at 4 P.M. for Follen at Sp. Mill. After supper, he went away, and as our woman and her little boy had gone in the morning to Phila. to stay till tomorrow evening, and the girl, a neighbor, who had come to supply the place, had gone home for the night, Mary and I were left alone. And now at 9 P.M., Follen having gone to see daughter Susan Lukens, I say to Mary that in fifty years there has never been an evening in which this house only contained two persons.

I have read much this evening, all the last week's "Friends Intelligence," the "Bulletin," and Norristown "Daily Times."

December 20: Thursday.

Did a good many things here and there today.

December 21: Friday.

To Consho., from there to Norristown by 9 A.M. Visited a good many persons, Senator Brown, Reps. Bean & Kratz in relation to my work to be before the Legislature the coming winter, to take power from the Superintendents and give to the Trustees of Hospitals for Insane. Also to compel Trustees to appoint women physicians for women insane. Went again in afternoon to see others. Home by 5 P.M. At 5 ¼ struck with palp.; have had it all the evening.

December 22: Saturday.

All the night the palp. cont'd. and I slept not a wink till 6 A.M., then only ½ hour; took breakfast; still it went on. I did not go out, and at 9 ¼ it disappeared immediately after taking 10 grs. sulphate Cinchona at one dose. Since it left, I have had infusion of Digitalis made and have taken a few doses. Now, 8 P.M., I am feeling pretty well; was at Conshohocken before supper.

December 24: Monday.

Went to Phila. in the 8:10 A.M. train from Conshohocken. Got to Phila. 20' of 9; dropped down (in street cars) to see R. R. Corson; went with him up to see Dr. Morton, Chestnut ab[ove] Broad; went with Dr. Morton across street to office of the Committee of Lunacy, to see Dr. Oust and get some papers. Went down to 926 Walnut (walked) to see Follen. Went with him to Kensington Bank, to have Mother's Bank stock assigned to me as Executor. They could not do it; then came from there to Phila. Bank above 4<sup>th</sup> in Chestnut. Had that stock transferred; went to Robert R. Corson's office 119 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St. There arranged my "paper on Hospitals for the Insane, and agreed with the publisher about price, &c., &c.; then took street cars up Walnut to 8<sup>th</sup>, up 8<sup>th</sup> to Green and was in the train for Sp. Mill five minutes before starting time, 1:35 P.M. Came along anxious to get along as speedily as possible, till I got to Shaw-Mont. There Dr. Gummes came to

me and was profuse in his congratulations, and compliments, and greatly interested in a bad epidemic of Diphtheria in Berks & Lehigh Counties and desirous to get an opinion about it & its treatment. I listened attentively to him, and did not notice our reaching Lafayette, nor even Spring Mill where I was to get out, but happening to look out of the window, was astonished to see that we were just near the Station in Conshohocken. So there I had 25 minutes to wait for a train back to Sp. Mill. Reaching Sp. Mill, found my man had gone home. Got James Sampson to take me home. Got only ¼ mile when we met my man.

Mary had sent him back again to wait till I should come. Soon got home after I got with my own carriage. All this day I had taken nothing to eat or drink, and as it was then 3:30 P.M., I was ready for the supper Mary got for me quickly. After eating that, [I] went to visit Jos. Coulston's wife, who had come to see me for medicine, and as I was not at home, wished me to come out when I did reach home. Came from there in time to go for Follen on arrival of the 4:25 train. Got home with him, had supper at 6 P.[M.] and then after supper began writing. Am pretty tired, but well as can be.

Have written a letter to Robert and have sent it to Consho. P. Office by the man.

December 25: Tuesday.

Christmas Day. 9 P.M. Most beautiful day. Temp above freezing all day, indeed up to 52° at 2 P.M. in the shade. I have read a good deal. Wrote to Thomas Adamson & to our Son Joseph. Sent my Ledger articles to both.

Received a box containing a large Turkey and fine rabbits from Follen's friend Mr. Davis of Raccoon Ford, Va. Every year he sends a box of poultry, &c. I got many nice, not very costly presents from the children. Jawood Lukens and Susan spent the evening with Mary, Follen and myself.

11 P.M. I cont'd. reading and writing after Jay and Susan left, until now. Now for bed.

December 26: Wednesday.

Took the train on Reading R. Road at 8:34 for Phila., reached Emeritus Professor Henry H. Smith's office, 1800 Spruce St. We agreed on the Title Page of my pamphlet. Had a pleasant talk, and then I left for Robert R. Corson's office, 119 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St. There agreed with the publishers on terms; took the cars for 9<sup>th</sup> & Green, then at 12:01 (noon), the steam cars for Sp. Mill. Home at one P.M.

At 3:30 P.M. left for Consho. on business. At 5:55 P.[M.] met Follen at Sp. Mill Station and brought him home. Since that [time] have read and written [until] now, 9 P.M.

December 29: Saturday.

Went with Follen to Conshohocken, [then] home and at 10:30 A.M. left in carriage for Gwynnedd [Gwynedd] Friends meeting to attend the funeral of Miss Lydia Mather, one of the cheery, pleasant girls of whom we ("Mother" and myself) fifty years ago spoke of the "Mather girls." These girls and the "Foulke girls," of whom there were seven Foulkes and six Mathers, were fifty to 60 years ago intimate friends; all the Foulkes married but Susan, and all the Mathers, but Mary and Lydia.

I reached Gwynnedd [sic] soon after the meeting came together. The corpse had come up from West Phila. There was no preaching, all that had been done at the house in Phila., and there was a most impressive, solemn silence for over half an hour, when she was carried to the grave. Seldom have I seen so emaciated a body. Only two brothers and two sisters are now living, two bachelors and two widows, and oh! how changed! The girls, now old women. I was glad to see them even though so changed. I was the only person there, not a relation, who was not a near neighbor, or a Friend.

After leaving there at 1:40 P.M., I made for Norristown, but stopped at Franklinville to see the hundred "Holstein Cattle," stabled by William Singerly, Editor of the "Daily Record." It was an interesting sight, all so fine. They are always kept in their stalls in the stable. That seems hard.

From thence to Norristown to arrange with Col. Bean and Senator Brown about my proposed reforms which they are to urge on the Legislature. Home at 5 P.[M.], read till 8 ½, then to bed, pretty tired.

Follen and myself had arranged to be up early tomorrow so as to take the cars at Burke St. at 9 A.M. to visit Alfred Blaker, my first Cousin, at Newtown.

December 30: Sunday.

Slept unusually well last night, until three A.M. today; then lay awake involved in troops of thoughts, which came from all quarters and parts of my busy past life, and at 4 o'clock, while very comfortable, palpitation struck me. With much perseverance and great difficulty, I got myself down to breakfast. But how I did regret that I was thus prevented from going to Newtown to see Alfred & wife. It is now almost 3 P.M., and I have been more poorly than is usual under palpitation, and I am now trying what effect employing the mind in writing will have in relieving me. It has often seemed to cure me, by the mere occupancy of the mind and forgetting the body, but it has failed thus far today, 3 P.M.

Three and a half P.M. In about 10 minutes after I had written the above [and] when I had quit from pure fatigue, it suddenly went off, letting the heart resume its usual steady beats, 56 or 60 per minute. After it left, I wrote several letters before seven o'clock, one to be read at the Banquet to Dr. Coffman on New Years Day, another to Senator George P. Ross. To bed at 9 P.M.

December 31: Monday.

The 1/8 gr. morph I took during the day kept me awake till 4 A.M. this morning. Slept a little from 5 to 6. At the latter hour was awake and the palp. began again. I sprang up suddenly, and it disappeared.

I feared to lie down again lest it might return, so dressed myself, came down made the fires, opened the windows, &c. Had breakfast at 7 A.M.; at 8 A.M. I was at Norristown to see Senator Brown and Representative Bean about the "Bills" which I want them to bring before the Legislature. Saw them both before 9 o'clock. Then I stopped with Dr. Knipe in his office, called on Dr. Drake who was not in, then on Dr. Eisenberg, and had our matters canvassed; then to John J. Corson's office, then to Alan W. Corson's office, then to Dr. E. M. Corson's office, Brother William's old office, then for home. Called on Mrs. Joseph Righter, whom I have occasionally prescribed for

during several months; then to Wm. Yetter's, then to Jesse Hall's at Plymouth P. Office, then home at 11 ½ A.M.

After dinner [went] to Conshohocken for a few needed articles for the cook, and to post three letters. Home at 4 P.M.

Declined going to Dr. Coffman's reception but sent letter, to be read, by mail.

## 1889

January 1: Tuesday.

Therm. above freezing. Follen went to Baltimore to see Miss Slemmer. Mary and myself had a quiet day at home.

January 2: Wednesday.

Nothing unusual done by me. The weather [is] mild. Therm. above freezing at sunrise. Wrote and rec'd. letters.

January 5: Saturday.

The weather on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> was quite mild. Temp about 40° F. in the shade. I was busy as usual with various matters, and was at Norristown yesterday to see Senator Brown and Representative Bean in relation to my work before the Legislature.

Today has been an idle one, the only idle one for sixty years. Even Sundays have been busy days, practicing, or reading, or writing, or doing something. This day was rainy in the morning, so I sent the man with Follen. He brought me the Saturday Country papers. I soon got through them. Then I laid down on the lounge and staid there till near dinner time. After dinner laid down again and slept some. At 3 P.M., finished reading "Lucille" as I lay there, about 2 pages only. Staid there till Follen came home after five o'clock; had supper at 6 P.M. Have read the "Bulletin" since. Oh! It has been an idle day, but not a wasted one. I felt that I needed rest. I have had much palpitation for several weeks, and owing perhaps to my mind being constantly occupied by my work in relation to the Hospital reforms in management and other matters, all of which now being accomplished as far as I can do any thing, my mind is relieved and so I have been taking needed rest today.

January 12: Saturday.

I rose just after six. Have fixed the fires, which means shutting the doors and letting on the draft. Have taken nearly 10 grs. of Sulph. Quinine every day nearly for two days, and have not had a threatening of palpitation. Latterly for some months between the spells lasted for hours, I would have spells which I could put off by or with a drink of cold, very cold water. No spell since 30<sup>th</sup> Dec.

"Aunt Harriet" came on the 10<sup>th</sup> with Follen. I have two patients now.

January 13: Sunday.

Follen took me to see one of our Representatives so that I could talk to him about the Law which I want to have enacted. On returning, just after we left Ellwood's office at 11 ½ A.M., I was struck with palpitation. It lasted me till midnight exactly. After it went off, I could not get sleep, but was pretty comfortable till morning.

January 14: Monday.

Was off to Conshohocken with Follen very early. [Came] back home speedily. Got at P.O. a letter from Dr. Mary H. Stinson of Norristown asking me to visit her at my earliest convenience. And a messenger from Mary Daniels wished me to visit Mary "who is very sick."

I went to see the latter, and then to Norristown to see the former. Home by 1 ½ P.M. Went to bed after dinner for 1 ½ hours. Then at 5 P.[M.] [went] to bring Follen home from Spring Mill.

January 15: Tuesday.

Went to bed last night at 8. After midnight had several spells of pain in my right side and shoulder. It was diffuse over a large space, and though not severe, was so peculiar as to make me somewhat afraid of it.

January 16: Wednesday.

Was busy during the forenoon, at Consho., &c., &c. At one P.M. took Mary, "Aunt Harriet Foulke" and Mary's young friend Sallie Huston to see the trained horses. Their performances were wonderful. At 2 P.M. I was at the Medical Society meeting and had some "Resolutions" passed to serve as a memorial to the Legislature in favor of having women physicians to have charge of the women Insane in every hospital in the State.

January 19: Saturday.

I was in the City yesterday to have some Bank stock that was owned by Mother assigned to me by myself as Executor. After leaving Kensington Bank to go to Columbia Av. Station, I was taken at ½ past eleven before I reached the station, with palpitation. I was but a square or two away when I got out of the Street Car, and by the time I reached the station was pretty tottering. The cars soon brot me to Conshohocken. I had to walk up the hill and first up the steps to the Main Street. When I got to the top of them, I could scarcely stand. Then after leaning awhile on the bridge railing, I started on, but had to stop soon in the watch maker's shop; rested awhile then started again, and it was with the greatest difficulty I got to the hotel where my carriage was. I sat down there, while he was getting the horse; recovered a little but my heart was beating fearfully, and when attempting to walk, I was almost dizzy and my legs so weak that I could hardly walk at all, but still I let no one know how I was.

Got some better in the carriage; was soon home. Took 40 drops Tct. Digitalis and 20 grs. Bromide Ammonium; went to bed. It went off at ¼ before three P.M.

That is [what] I wrote for yesterday; this Evening and now I write for today.

Went early with Follen to Consho. Got letters from Joseph and Bertha. Went to Norristown, deposited \$85.00. [The] man made a mistake and credited me with \$69.50. Did not discover it till I got home. Saw Senator Brown and Representative Col. Bean and heard from them that they had read in place their "Bills," for the changes which I wish made in the laws governing Hospitals for the Insane. Attended to several matters and was home at 12 ½ P.M.

Have not done much this afternoon. Bertha & her daughter Bertha came up with Follen this evening.

January 21: Monday.

Went to Norristown from Consho. to see Senator Brown & Representative Bean about the "Bills." Had interview with them and agreed on the course to be pursued.

January 22: Tuesday.

Again to Norristown. Sent the man with Follen. Went to the Hospital to see Dr. Bennett after dinner. Had come home at noon. Then on getting a letter from her, went back again to have a talk about the propriety of not having a meeting of our Com. of 13, but the Chairman is getting each one's opinion; wrote to his inquiry a reply that we agreed to it. Dr. Chase who is one of the Com. is so disloyal to the Hospital, so desirous to be a superintendent, that he declines to act with the Committee. He was not at home this P.M. Therefore I will see him tomorrow. So I have been very busy today. Am tired.

January 23: Wednesday.

Slept well from 10 till ¼ of 4, then from 4 ½ till ¼ of 6 A.M. Then got up, opened all the shutters. Started the fires to a full draft. Went at 7 ½ with Follen to Conshohocken, then to Sp. Mill & brot Frannie up from the train. Just after we got home at 9 A.M., Susan came up. Then as Frannie wanted to go to see Tacie, I took her with me to Norristown and left her with Tacie, while I went to see Dr. Chase. He pretended to me, indeed said squarely, that the Trustees wished him not to take any part in the Com. for fear of antagonizing the other hospitals against this one. I told him that Mr. Hunsicker, a Trustee, told me yesterday that no such thing had been told him by the Trustees. That it was an incredible thing that they had tried, or wished him, to not express his preference for this organization and management rather than that of the Harrisburg. I bid him a hasty good day and left him.

Rode to Tacie's, got Frannie & was at home at 20 minutes after 12 noon. In the afternoon visited Frank Ramsey and prescribed for him.

January 24: Thursday.

Went to the City at 8:30. Saw Dr. Thos. G. Morton for half hour. Then went to see Robert R. Corson and settled with the printer of my 500 pamphlets, paid him \$27 for the publication and \$9.00 to his clerk for writing names of Senators & Representatives on about 250. [Arrived] home at 1:30 P.M. Then went to see a patient, also went away to Broad Axe to C. Stout's to buy pigs.

At 8 o'clock in the evening while reading, [was] struck severely with palpitation, jumped up and went to the bucket and drank a whole tin full of cold water, which fortunately stopped it.. Went to bed at 9:40 P.M.

January 27: Sunday.

Still warm, 37° F. now at 7 A.M. Has been so for several days. For weeks the weather has been warm & moist generally, only a few nights when it made a thin ice. On yesterday & day before, I attended to the Senator & the Representative who have my "Bills" in hand, while on Friday I did not go to Norristown at all.

Dr. Chase got greatly frightened when I left him so abruptly on Thursday, and soon followed me to Norristown to see Mr. Hunsicker and Judge Stinson. They let him

know very quickly that it was a simple question, viz., does he favor, or rather prefer the present Organization of the Hospital before the other old ones? A question which the Trustees had nothing to do with, that he could make his answer. So I suppose he will write the Chairman now, at once, Judge Stinson says Dorothea Dix, before they employed him, said he would lie. Judge Stinson said, "he came to us with an unsavory reputation," but added "he is a good manager."

The New Kind of Heart-Trouble.<sup>xxxv</sup> Was very well all last week, strong, active, healthful, full of various kinds of business, and happy. Read & wrote a good deal last evening, finished by reading from 9 to 10 P.M. "John Ward, Preacher." At 4 o'clock this morning I awoke with the peculiar pain, of which I have spoken on another page, under my breast-bone. I felt for my pulse. It was not present for the time in which it could have beat two or perhaps more beats. Then it came, one beat, the next a weak one, then slow & regular ones. I sprang up, got out of bed, went to the window and inhaled Ether, four drafts; then to the window in the narrow entry and took a drink of cold water; then it began to diminish. It begins in a spot no bigger than the end of my finger, then radiates all over an area of 8 or 10 inches in diameter and apparently circular. It is not a severe pain. But is a threatening one. It increases its area pretty steadily and rapidly and seems as though it would soon fill up the lungs over, or rather, under that region. But happily it soon stops increasing and begins to diminish. The pain having gone, there was still left today an unpleasant feeling, and once more before day-light, the pain returned but I, being awake, quickly sat up in bed, and it disappeared. At 6 ½ I rose, had slept a little after the 2<sup>nd</sup> attack, but an unpleasant feeling remained with me in the breast, but was trifling. Before I ate breakfast, took two tea-spoonsful of Tct. Orange and 1/24 gr. sulph. morph. Have just taken a cup of coffee and a little breakfast.

January 28: Monday.

On the last page I have described attacks of pain which occurred night before last and which were unpleasant to me and were, I thought, caused by some heart trouble. Now I regard the pain as the cause of the heart affection, or rather the pain precedes the great depression of heart action.

I went to bed at 10 P.M. yesterday night in excellent condition, after having read "John Ward, Preacher" & other articles and wrote letters. Did not feel sleepy and did not sleep. At 15' of 12 midnight, I had an attack of pain followed by a slowness of pulsation of heart which alarmed me. I quickly got out of the bed, inhaled some Ether, took a "glass" of water and by that time it was off. From that time until 5 A.M. today, there were four more spells. As I was awake all the time, I noted its beginning and its effect on the pulse carefully, and also its decline. In three of the cases, the pain began very lightly on the middle of the spinous process of the scapula of the right side, in two or most three minutes extended through the side, to a point on the right margin of the sternum half way of its length; then in a minute, just about a minute, it kept increasing till it was quite decided. Then the heart which had steadily continued its 56 beats per minute, made a sudden stop. My fingers were on the pulse all this time, and seemed to stop so long that I feared it had stopped "for good," but after an interval in which I thought it ought to have acted two or three times, came another thump and then a pause. I concluded to lie still, was on my back; did so and it beat at that slow rate 25 times, then began to increase and in five beats more, each coming quicker than the preceding [until]

its 56 gait was present. Then the pain began to yield and in a few minutes was gone. The next attack an hour later resembled it exactly but had only 20 slow beats. The third attack began with pain commencing at the nipple, or just above and a little nearer to the breast bone, and spread over the right side from the clavicle to the sixth rib, and then the heart became involved as in the other cases. The hearts pulsations were so far apart and apparently so reluctant that it seemed to herald impending death. After the first attack, I took 45 drops Tct. Digitalis, and in half an hour, at the close of the second, took 20 more. Had taken 20 grs. Bromide Ammonium when I went to bed in the evening. After the 3<sup>rd</sup> attack, took 1/8 gr. of sulph. morph. That had the effect to make me more comfortable, and after 5 ½ A.M., I slept an hour or so.

This is plainly a disturbance of the nervous system, a fugitive neuralgia perhaps, but why come at all? So well and active I have been for weeks, save two or three palpitations.

I rose early, after six, was off to Consho. with Follen by 7 ½ A.M. Home by nine, wrote a letter, put up half a dozen of my pamphlets on Hospitals, one for Judge Watson, one for Judge Yerkes, others for Dr. Goodell, Dr. Dickinson of Va., &c., &c. and took them to Plymouth Meeting P.O.; took an hour in bed and at 12 had dinner.

10 P.M. Slept from one to 3 P.M. and got up feeling as well as usual, indeed very well. Enveloped several pamphlets and wrote one letter. At 4 P.M. went to Conshohocken to drop my letter to Col. Bean at Harrisburg, then for Foll, then home. Read "John Ward, Preacher," finished him.

January 29: Tuesday.

Morning, 6 ½ o'clock. Rose at 6 exactly feeling very well; had slept soundly from 10 P.M., or say from 10 ½, until 4 this morning, then fell asleep and awakened at 6 and got up. While putting on my stockings, a pain started not on the shoulder blade as before, but about the middle of the right lung just inside the nipple nearer the sternum but deep this time. I stopped my drawing on the stocking. The heart showed no change in its beats. The pain spread & strengthened for a minute or two, then the heart made a sudden stop, so long that it seemed as though it had missed two or three beats, then another, and so on. I counted 25 then thought I must get relief; took a small dose of Tinct. Orange peel which I had prepared. It did no good and I went away to the head of the back stairs to get a glass of cold water; drank that [and] still no relief; came back into the room, the heart limping on in the same halting way and my right side filled with a diffused and pretty severe pain. Finally, when at least a hundred of these pauses had taken place, it began to change; then would be two beats quick, then a very long pause, and so on perhaps a dozen times; then it resumed its usual action and for a brief time not so strong as usual. The pain then cleared away slowly and I was myself again. I then lay down in the bed a few minutes, got up, dressed, and here I am. I must check this, or I wont live a week likely. I will perhaps go to see Dr. Horatio Wood today, look for a remedy soon. As soon as breakfast was over, I went with Follen to Conshohocken, then to Phila. in the Penna train; from Broad & Market in cable cars to 1925, Dr. Horatio C. Wood's residence, to give him a history of my case. While in the cable cars and after I got out and was walking 1 ½ squares to Dr. Wood's house, I felt very uncomfortable, had pains in my right shoulder and breast, but not severe. Still I felt that possibly they were the prelude to a coming heart attack, but I reached there, waited with others who were



before me about 20 minutes for the doctor to finish a patient in his back office, and while thus resting in a very comfortable parlor, I became easy and natural in my feelings. He listened to my account, had a short-hand-writer to take it down, and advised as a remedy to cut short the spells, 10 or 20 drops Tinct. Ginger, as many grs, Bi-Carb-soda and  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. morph. To take as a preventive,  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr. morph. in the morning and as much in the evening. I left, jumped into the Street car & rode to Eight Street, took that car to 9<sup>th</sup> & Green and was in time for the 11 A.M. train to Spring Mill; reached home in the carriage waiting for me at 12 noon, ate a pretty good dinner, and now at 1 P.M. write this.

9 $\frac{1}{2}$  P.M. Was engaged in the afternoon sending my pamphlets on Hospitals for the Insane and other matters, and about 4 o'clock lay down on the lounge. Follen came home at 5  $\frac{1}{4}$ . Just after he came in, I felt a pain in my right shoulder blade. It increased & spread over the upper part of the right side of the chest, so that in a few minutes, two or three, it had reached the side of the sternum, then the breast. As on the former occasions, [the heart] suddenly paused and did not beat for a longer time. I got Follen to count it. I called out the beats, 1, 2, 3, 4, &c. He made out that it beat 10 in a q[uar]ter minute, that would be 40 in a minute. I took a glass of cold water. It did not change it at once, but in a couple or three minutes more it ceased to hobble and went on its way at 68 per minute. As soon as it did that, the pain which was spread through that upper part of the right chest, began to subside and in a few minutes was all away. Lying on the back may predispose to an attack. I have had no return of it since, now 9  $\frac{3}{4}$  P.M.

"Aunt Harriet Foulke's" Birth Day, [she is] seventy today. In order to make it pleasant to her, Mary had a nice supper prepared & Jay, Susan, and Thomas (Yocom) were invited. Matilda had the supper in good style. Fried oysters, celery, cranberries, and all needed fixings, and dessert of her best black cake and orange custard. She is an adept in cooking. At 9 P.M. our visitors left us.

January 30: Wednesday.

I went to bed last night at 10 P.M. At 11  $\frac{3}{4}$  got an attack. It was quite severe, pulse 28 per minute, or 32, I could not be exact, holding watch & pulse both, and a poor light. In an hour had another spell. It was so threatening by its long pauses, and so distressing that I knocked on Follen's door. In both cases a large drink of cold water arrested it. Both began by a light pain on the spine of right scapula and spread in a minute, or at most two, over the side or through the chest of right side to occupy the whole region above the line of the nipple. Soon as it had gotten all over this region, a sudden pause was made by the heart, which fell from 65 to 30 beats per minute, and cont'd. until about 100 slow beats were made. As soon as it resumed the daily gate from 56 to 65, the pain fell away and disappeared at the same rate that it had come on, being fairly gone in about two minutes.

Twice more it occurred before I rose for the day, and then twice before breakfast time. I found the cold water efficient in arresting it, as I believed. After breakfast & before noon, [I] had it twice more, and I took nothing, it disappearing about as soon as when I had taken the cold water. At 9 o'clock I took  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. sulph. morph., which has done me much good. About 15 minutes ago, I had an attack, but it hardly reached maturity and slipped away very quickly. Ate but a light breakfast and not a heavy dinner.

Dr. Ellwood M. Corson came down to see me at noon.

I am strongly convinced now that it is owing to acid in the stomach. He will send me Resorsin [Resorcin, resorcinol]. Next time too I will take a dose Bromo Caffeine.

January 31: Tuesday.

I slept very soundly last night until 2 A.M., then again till 5 A.M. Soon after that time I was attacked. The pain spread from the shoulder blade through the chest of the right side, widening as it went till it reached the sternum. Then the irregularity of the heart began. It continued pretty badly until I was very uncomfortable, in all though not more than five minutes probably. The cold water did not seem to produce any good effect. After it went off, I slept again until 5:15, came down and started the fires, &c., &c.

Mary & Follen have gone to Consho, to continue on till they reach Phila. Mary has shopping to do, she thinks.

9 P.M. Have had no trouble with my heart today. Have been quiet and at home all day. Have not even read much and have written but two letters. Have a report from Ayres, Ch. of our Com. of 13. I will sign it. Have a letter too from Col. Bean that Dr. Morton now opposes his "Bill." Strange! Will write to him in the morning.

February 1: Friday.

Had a good night. Rose at 6, went down, set the fires in motion, which was only shutting some doors and opening the draft. Went to Consho. with Follen. Got a bill of \$102, pd. to me by James W. Harry for attendance of his father's family; then [went] home. Got a letter from Judge Watson to whom I had sent a pamphlet. Pottered around, went for Follen at 4:25 P.M.

Tacie was here all day.

Have had no irregularity of [the] heart today.

February 5: Tuesday.

During the time since last writing, I have been quite well, though very busy about my "Bills" before the Legislature, seeing Senator Brown and Representative Bean, Dr. Bennett, Chase, &c.

Senator Brown has his bill to amend my "bill" of 1878 so as to make it imperative on Trustees to appoint a female physician for the female insane, passed [the] second reading. [Rep.] Col. Bean, has not his "bill" to give the entire control of the Institution to the Trustees and to compel the physicians (Trustees) to attend to only medical duties, out of the Committee yet and wants me to go before them. But as my pamphlet is now in the hands of every Representative and I am not able to go, at least could not go with safety to my life, I have agreed to pay all expenses for Dr. Eisenberg to go in my place, and I have been busy "posting" him on all the points. Have had letters from many persons encouraging me and offering aid, one yesterday from Dr. Green, one from Dr. Lamberton, one from Rev'd. MacLane, one from Grace Anna Lewis, &c., &c.

Bertha & son Hiram and Frannie Day were here today. They had a pleasant visit with Mary and Aunt Harriet Foulke.

This evening at 6 ½ when we were at supper, palp. attacked me; had had none since 19<sup>th</sup> January. I went to cistern and drank largely of cold water, but it was of no

avail. After supper I was reading the newspaper when it suddenly stopped; had it only half an hour.

February 7: Thursday.

Letters from Dr. Lamberton, giving me privilege to say to Dr. Eisenberg, who went this morning to Harrisburg in my place to meet the Judiciary Committee in advocacy of our "Bill," that the Harrisburg Trustees favor our "Bill." I telegraphed Dr. Eisenberg.

Yesterday I took Dr. Eisenberg to the Hospital to see Dr. Bennett and make himself acquainted with the management in the hospital and get "points" from her, to be used today before the Judiciary Com. in favor of my "Bill." He and Dr. E. M. Corson went in the early train this morning. They will also attend the Governor's reception tonight. I telegraphed him today.

This evening I rec'd. a telegram, while at supper, from Dr. Charles Dolley, wishing me to go to Rochester immediately as his mother, my niece, my Sister Mary's daughter, is very ill. I could not go, because I am not well, or rather I fear to go for fear I will get spells of arrest of normal action of the heart, as I had last week. I telegraphed that I could not go, also sent a letter to Dr. Dolley, also wrote a letter to Dr. Lamberton and sent both to Norristown to be mailed yet this evening.

February 8: Friday.

8 P.M. Not much to record today; busy as usual with various matters, but have just had an attack of palpitation.

10 o'clock P.M. The palp. has just gone off. I took some Tct. Ginger and a tumbler of very cold water, whether either of them did good, I do not know.

February 9: Saturday.

I slept well last night after the palp. disappeared, and now feel well.

10 P.M. Have been quite well today, but did not much but write & read. The Circle thus [here Dr. Corson drew a circle], denotes attacks of the new heart trouble.

February 10: Sunday.

I have been quite well today, save a few light attacks of irregularity of pulse and slowness of beat, with pain through the shoulder and breast of the right side. It is very unpleasant while upon me, and is significant of increasing trouble.

February 11: Monday.

5½ A.M. Had three short light spells of the pain in the shoulder (yesterday) and the pulsations of the heart only about 35 in a minute, and was wakened by it last night three times. It lasts but about 2 or 3 minutes from beginning to end but is very unpleasant.

Noon. Went to Conshohocken with Follen, and Frannie Yocum [sic], was there at 8 o'clock, got no letter from Sarah Dolley. Went direct to Norristown, to see Senator Brown. His timidity and want of Judgment have caused him to fail to carry the "Bill."

Dr. Mary H. Stinson has been sick several days and I promised Dr. E. M. Corson last night to see her this morning. But when I got to his office this morning, found she

was dying. Paid my drug bill and \$1.25 for the "Novel Nancredi" [Tan credi] written by my friend Dr. E. A. Wood of Pittsburgh. Did some shopping and reached home at noon. While away, had three attacks of the heart trouble.

3 P.M. Since coming home, have had three spells, the last half hour ago, and it was a severe one. They last but about three minutes, but they are three minutes in which life seems to hang on the slightest thread. When gone, I am all right.

February 12: Tuesday.

Last night at midnight, I awoke from a sound sleep. Had retired at 10 P.M. and in a few minutes [had] a spell of pain through right side of chest, upper part, and over to the left side, an unusual thing. I may say the only time that it has passed beyond the sternum from the right side. In a minute or a little more the pulse began its slow, irregular beats as though about to stop. This lasted several minutes and was a time of much suffering. Finally it went off. Follen heard me walking about and suffering, so came in. I took several remedies, but without apparent good effect. It was the severest spell I have had. I took at last just before it went off,  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. morph. & [1 oz.] Tinct. Gentian. They affected me sensibly and now at 4:30 P.M. I have had no attack of pain, &c., but I have been twice taken naps and have taken a little Quinine and some morph., not more altogether than  $\frac{1}{8}$  of a grain. Have eaten no meat, save a few oysters.

A few days ago I sent to Dr. Thomas Wistar a copy of my pamphlet entitled "Our Insane Poor." This letter and Poem he sent me in reply:

Provident Life & Trust Co., Phila., February 7, 1889.

Dr. Corson. Honor'd Friend. I beg to acknowledge receiving your two papers, "A Plea to the Legislature" and "Our Hospitals for the Insane." I shall be glad to have the conclusions in this important subject of one who has devoted so much thought and labor to it, as yourself, and shall read them with pleasure.

In a note which I had the pleasure to receive from you last spring or summer you expressed a wish to see me and an intention to call, on some matter that interested you. Your great trouble followed, in which you had and have my deep sympathy, and you failed to do so. But I shall hope to drive out for a little call on you, sometimes in the early summer if I can do so. I should like to meet one whose character and attainments I have long respected, and one who has been a life-long friend of mine and teacher Dr. Henry H. Smith. Very Sincerely and truly yours. Thomas Wistar.

February 13: Wednesday.

Therm.  $13^{\circ}$  F. Read Dr. Wood's Novel "Tan credi" during last evening till 10 P.M., with occasional intervals of rest.

Took  $\frac{1}{8}$  gr. sulph. morph. and a teaspoonful of a mixture of Resorcin and Syrup, only  $\frac{1}{8}$  of it Resorcin, on going to bed. Slept well, awaking though four or five times during the night. Rose at 6 A.M. today, went down to close the stove doors, walked back up stairs pretty smartly. Just as I got back, the spell came on me. It lasted three or

four minutes, long ones they seemed, but I did not call Follen. Took some Tct. Ginger, then pretty soon ice water. It went off and I was soon well again. Queer, isn't it?

Dr. Mary H. Stinson died. She was an earnest, warm friend of Brother William and myself. The first Woman Physician I ever knew to have charge of Insane women in an Asylum or Hospital. She was assistant physician to the Insane in the Worcester, Mass. Lunatic Hospital at Springfield, Massachusetts, for five years. Was offered, indeed elected to be Chief of the Eastern Hospital at Norristown, when first started, but declined on account of ill health. She was generous in her contributions to the cause of women's advancement to an equality with man in all things under the Law.

February 14: Thursday.

Joseph E. Thropp's Company of 12 persons.

Several days ago I was invited by Mr. Thropp. I could not go. Then he invited me again for the 14<sup>th</sup> at one P.M. That hour he thought would enable me to get home before dark. So on Thursday morning I got myself ready to go by half past nine, or a little later, when I was attacked by palpitation. I took Joseph's prescription, Tct. Ginger, aromatic spts. Ammonia and a little morph., but it did no good. After waiting half an hour, took a tumbler of ice water. Instantly it disappeared. I then went to Consho. in Susan's carriage, she having come up to see me. At 12 ½ I was at Follen's office, 926 Walnut St., and 10 minutes before one, the hour of meeting, I was at Mr. Thropp's, South corner of 21<sup>st</sup> Walnut. Four guests were already there. Six more came soon. At 1 ½ we went to dinner. At 4 P.M. we rose from it. At 4:25 I was at Broad St. Station to take the cars for Conshohocken, Mr. Thropp having sent me to the Station in his carriage. Was home before 6 P.M.

It was a pleasant informal party. General W. W. H. Davis, before we left the table, made a brief speech about the "Guest," referring to me and his toast was drink standing in good draughts of cold water. Present [were] Genl. W. W. H. Davis, Rev. Agnew, Messrs Morgan, Janny, C. L. Smith, McCurdy, Dr. Thomas of Quakertown, Mr. Biddle, Folwell, &c.

February 17: Sunday.

Slept well. No heart trouble. Up at 7 o'clock before any one else in the house. Bertha Yocom & son Thomas, Frannie Day & son Charley, Jay Lukens and Susan were here this forenoon. The last two left before dinner. So the others and Aunt Harriet, Follen, Mary & myself were the only ones at dinner.

Evening. The visitors left at 4 P.[M.] and Follen at 6 ½ P.[M.]. I read a good deal of Mrs. Oberholtzer's poetry later.

February 18: Monday.

Rose early and was well. Just as I was sitting down to breakfast, palp. struck me. I said nothing about it till after Follen left for Phila.

It was still battering away when at 9 A.M., Ellwood, the man, returned from Conshohocken bringing letters for me. One from Charles Adamson, my gd. nephew, requesting from me a letter of introduction to Governor Beaver. I came down, being in bed when I got it, and while doing so the palp. disappeared. It has often happened that

when my mind became engaged in letter writing, or absorbed in reading, that the heart would cease its rapid action.

February 19: Tuesday.

Follen's Wedding Day. Up in the usual time. Had had a spell of slow pulse and its attendants in the night. Follen took Ellwood, the man, and went to Norristown to go himself to Phila. We, Aunt Harriet, Mary and self were all ready in time and Ellwood with two horses to the big old carriage took us up to Mrs. Slemmer's house No. ---- Swede St., Norristown. Many guests were assembled, and they cont'd. to come until the hour, noon, when the party, the Minister followed by the Bride and Groom, no harm to use Capitals here, walked straight to the mantel, which exactly faced the door opening from the Hall, then turned with backs to the mantel fronting the Minister, Rev'd. Gibson of Norristown Episcopal Church. I had been given a chair at the end of the mantel, so that I was just at the left hand of the bride. The Minister pronounced the ceremony very well, as did the respondents their part of it. After a half hour of congratulations and kisses, we were led in to the dining room by Mr. Cook, another son-in-law of Mrs. Slemmer, with our daughter Susan F. Lukens on his arm. The eatables were in abundance and greatly enjoyed.

Just after the ceremony was over, I was struck with palpitation, which cont'd. during the remainder of my stay there, and after I reached home, until 9 o'clock nearly. It then went off.

Bertha & Frannie and their children, Frannie & Thomas, Bertha & Georgie Yocom, and Bertha & Charley Day were all there. So also Dr. Ellwood Corson and wife [and] his sisters Helen Hovenden and Ida Corson, also Geo. Corson and his wife Elizabeth, and his sister Emily and his mother Emily; also his sister Mrs. Poley and her husband Warren Poley; also the two sons of my niece Mary Roberts; also Georgie Corson, daughter of Geo. N. Corson, my Brother Charles' son. My daughter Tacie did not come because her son James Cresson had been poorly for some days. My Cousin Hannah Blackfan's two daughters [empty space] were there and Sallie Garsed, daughter of my nephew Laurence E. Corson.

Of the Foulke family there were, Rebecca, Robert R. Corson's wife, and Robert himself, Emily her sister, who is now widow Emily Bacon, Lillie Bacon daughter of Hannah Bacon, wife of Frank Bacon and sister of "Mother," my wife, & Rebecca, and Emily; also Jesse Foulke their brother, Harriet Foulke, daughter of Richard Davis Corson and widow of Dr. Charles Foulke, brother to those named above. There were in all about ----- present and many signed the certificate.

As my daughter Tacie F. Cresson did not come, her sisters Frannie and Bertha and their children wished to go see her, so I sent the mothers and Frannie Yocom up in the carriage; the other children walked. When the carriage returned, we started for home where we arrived at 3 ½ P.M. I then laid down till 5 P.[M.], the heart working away at the rate of 150 times per minute. Then I got up and went to see the wife of Minister Miller, poor dear girl dying of consumption, and yet so anxious to be able to go to her Connecticut home with her mother as to deeply excite my sympathies. I encouraged her all I dare.

The young doctor who had been attending her, had distressed her greatly by telling her she would never be able to get out of bed, to go any where. That was cruel. Poor dear Girl! How she does long to get back to the home of her childhood!

So ends the 19<sup>th</sup> day of Feb., 1889.

February 20: Wednesday.

I ought to have said that the palp. cont'd. after getting home till 9 P.M. The palp. came on me again in the night at 12 midnight and lasted half hour.

Rose at 6:30, and just after I got down stairs, had a spell of irregularity and slow pulse, quite a bad one for five minutes. Took various kinds of medicine through the day, and though I had no palp. or spell, felt weak and not well, poor appetite, but I went to see several patients. Felt better when out in the air. Had Ellwood to drive for me. Began today to get my mail from Plymouth, as I have no need to go every day to Conshohocken.

February 21: Thursday.

Slept well last night until one o'clock, then had an attack of slow beats, but not a bad one. Then at 3:50 got awake and soon had another. Took two teaspoonsful of Celeste [Celastrus] & two of Tct. Gentian dilute, and slept again pretty well.

10 P.M. Made it to Quinn's Ch[ild] as I took "Aunt Harriet" to Conshohocken on her way home [and] on to Mrs. Miller, both in forenoon. [In the] afternoon went to Norristown. Had a few light spells today & this evening.

February 22: Friday.

A Holy-Day [sic]. No school open, nor Banks, nor Post offices, except a short time in the Morning & Evening.

I took considerable of a weak solution of sulphate morph. and Tct. Gentian yesterday and till bed-time last night, in order to see if the spells would be prevented. They were not. I had one at 11 P.M., one at (12) midnight, one at 3 o'clock. Then I took another dose of 1/8 gr. morph., [1 dram] Tct. Gentian, after half hour. Slept till 6 ½ A.M., when I had another spell. This was peculiar in one symptom never noted before. I was lying on my back, when I felt the pain, not in the shoulder at first as is usual, but in the breast to the right of the sternum and near to it. I concluded to lie still and observe closely. In a minute it spread over that part of the right thorax generally affected, and after a minute more, indeed until it had beaten a hundred times, it was regular and strong. Then it suddenly dropped into the slow rate and it made 30 beats of that kind, so slow they were and I was so uncomfortable that my desire to rise was almost irresistible, but I did not, and when it had struck the 30<sup>th</sup> beat, it a once, without any irregularity, as often occurs, resumed its natural beats and the pains gradually passed away from my breast and shoulder. But there was in this spell a new symptom. As it was beating in the slow way, say 30 in a minute, every beat was responded to by a distinct pulsation in the carotid artery of the right side just back of the angle of the jaw. When the slow beats ceased, it was felt no more.

After the spell at 6 ½ A.M., I got up, dressed myself and came down stairs. In about 10 minutes, while opening windows, I had another spell. I then took one teaspoonful Bromo-Caffeine in half tumbler of water, while it was effervescing. The wind came up freely and the spell was not a hard one.

At 9 o'clock I went to Conshohocken back by the way of Quinn's to see child, from there to the Minister's to see wife. [Was] home by 12 ½ noon.

Afternoon. I took a nap from 2 to 3 P.M. After that wrote my genealogical history of our family till supper time and afterward until at 8 P.[M.] Thomas Hovenden and Ida Corson came in and staid till 9 P.M. [They] have just gone home. Have had two spells this afternoon. Have taken no medicine but a few grains Quinine. But I feel weary and weak. Felt, before they went away, quite exhausted from talking a good deal. It is now 9 ½ P.M. and we will retire.

February 23: Saturday.

Took no medicine after quite a hearty supper last evening. Wrong. I did take 30 drops digitalis Tinct.

Did not get to sleep for nearly an hour, then awakened at 1 ½ A. M. and after seeming as well as usual for a quarter of an hour, the spell came on. I counted the pulse more than 200 pulsations and it was very strong and at least from 80 to 90 in a minute. I think, though I did not count it to see the beats per minute, being occupied in waiting for the stop to come. Though the pain in the breast was as bad as it has been at any time and this time was all over the breast but especially severe right under the sternum, over the heart, yet I say there was no pause or slow beat at all, showing that the pain does not necessarily depend on the slow beats, or slow action. It was a longer spell than usual. I went down stairs while it was on me and took a teaspoonful of Bromo-Caffeine. Whether it had any effect to relieve me I don't know,

Second spell. After it was over, I slept tolerably well from 3 o'clock till 6. I then got awake and directly the spell began. Before it got very far, I took the Bromo-Caffeine and wind came up just as it does after taking a soda-powder, and the spell did not increase and gradually subsided.

Went this morning to see Mrs. Miller about 10 o'clock. Nothing more till noon. After dinner slept from one to 2 ½ P.M. right well. Then got up and Ellwood took me to Consho. Stopped with Susan and asked her to have Thomas Yocum [sic], my grandson to come up and stay with us till Monday morning. I so fear the night that I want some one about.

Have not had a real spell today; have taken only Quinine, 10 grains.

February 24: Sunday.

7 A.M. Went to bed last night at 10 o'clock, awaked at eleven & a half, and soon had a pretty bad spell; went to bed again. I always get up when I have a spell. At one o'clock this morning had another very hard one, took teaspoonful of Bromo-Caffeine while it was on me. This spell was quite a strong and long one, but after all only about five minutes. After this spell, took ¼ gr. sulph. morph. At 2 o'clock there came another. I had not slept. This was lighter than the preceding ones. In 15 minutes more, had another, about like the one just preceding it. At half past three a moderate one; also at 5 ¼. I of course slept very little. I had good opportunities to mark its approach, and have discovered that the pulse at the wrist is affected before pain appears in the shoulder or elsewhere. In even the very hard spell, there was almost no slow beats, but a strong hard pulse and about seventy in a minute instead of 56, its usual day beat.



I had a very poor night so far as sleep was concerned. After breakfast and a time spent in reading, Thomas Yocom went with me to see the Minister's wife, and when we returned, Jay & Susan were here and we spent the time, till 12:30 P.M. when they went home.

After breakfast this morning I had a spell, and another pretty hard one at 10:30, just before I went to see the Minister's wife. The Rev'd.'s name is "Meek," not Miller as I have called him. Why will a sensible pretty girl marry a widower minister?

10 P.M. Had a spell soon after dinner, one at 3 P.M. and one at seven P.M. I have taken 40 drops Digitalis Tinct., also part of a Seidlitz powder, just for the carbonic acid gas. Go to bed reluctantly and yet don't want to sit up, would like to be in the horizontal position.

Have written three letters, one to Dr. Hewson, one to Bertha Yocom, third to Dr. Sarah Dolley my niece.

February 25: Monday.

Went to bed last night at 10 P.M. feeling pretty well. Had half a Seidlitz powder ready to take should the spell come on me. Slept till near 12 o'clock when I awoke and it came on at once. I suppose it had really come on and awakened me. I got up, took  $\frac{1}{2}$  Seidlitz effervescing strongly. It caused considerable belching of gas and it went off in its usual way. I potted about, went down to look after the fires, &c. for 10 or 15 minutes, then got into bed quickly and as soon as I was fairly down, the spell came again. I lay still and counted 170 strong, hard beats at 80 per minute, all the time having pain all over the right breast, sternum and shoulder, but little on the left side, though there was much of the bone breaking pain, as it used to be called, in the back. When the beats reached 170, there was a sudden pause and the slow beats began and cont'd. 60 times, now making, or having made, 230 from the beginning. Then began irregularity, 5 or 6 quick ones, then a pause, on three or four of them, again the 5 or 6 quick ones and so it went on for 30 more, then began to be regular in its beats and weaker and slower until 350 were reached, when the pain had all disappeared, I all the time lying still on my back.

When the spell came on and through the whole time, I took no medicine. After this 2<sup>nd</sup> spell was entirely gone, I wrote the above notes in my day-book. I got into bed and lay down in the most cautious manner on my left side. Immediately it began again, but as I had taken Seidlitz, the spell did not reach the usual height and disappeared pretty quickly.

It was now 12:30 A.M. and I was awake for some time, but at 5 minutes after 2 A.M. I awoke and it was on me. Took a large dose Bromo Caffeine, and belched well, but the spell went on, was indeed a hard one and lasted six minutes before it was entirely gone.

Six minutes does not seem a long time to one who is well, but to one under this peculiar pain and this kind of hobbling pulse, which threatens to stop entirely, it is apparently a much longer time.

Then took  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. morph., and also Bromo Caffeine, and went carefully quickly to bed. At 4 A.M. it came as soon as I awoke. I suppose that it really awakened me. I then took another quarter of a grain of sulph. morph. after it was over.

At 6 ¼ I got awake and rose to get out of bed when instantly there was another spell on me. It struggled for a while to go on to its usual height, but could not and then gave it up. The morph. by this time had good hold on me.

Was it the morph. that aborted that spell? It is now 10 min. after 9 and I have had one spell since I came down stairs this morning and three abortive attempts.

10 P.M. I have had no spell since 9 o'clock this morning when I wrote. I attribute my immunity from it to the ½ gr. morph. which I took after 4 o'clock this morning. Have felt better today than for several days.

February 26: Tuesday.

Slept very well last night till 2 this morning, then got awake, took a drink and went to bed again and slept well till 4 ½ A.M. After getting into bed had a pretty bad spell. After that took a Seidlitz powder with ¼ gr. morph. At 5 ½ had an abortive spell, took then 1/8 gr. Morph. and a half oz. of Tct. Gentian, a weak tincture.

Noon. Rode out to see two patients, about 5 miles in all. Had two moderate spells while I was away.

10 P.M. Have had several light spells.

February 27: Wednesday.

Had a bad spell last night just as I was going to bed. At 1 ½ A.M. a very bad and long one, again at 4 and small ones after that, before I rose for the day at 6 ½ A.M. and a light one since, but all the time [had] a pained, lame right shoulder.

10 P.M. Have been pretty well all day, save one pretty hard spell at 9 P.M. Took one pill of ¼ gr. morph. and a portion of atropia [atropina, atropine] at 4 P.M. and after the spell at 9 P.M. another. Had taken aperient in forenoon & bowels were moved well.

February 28: Thursday.

7 A.M. Slept well last night, but at 5 ½ this morning had a severe and longer than usual spell. Took after it ¼ gr. morph.

10 P.M. Have had a good many spells today. The first one at 4 o'clock A.M.; then 6 in all today, 6 or more hard ones, the last ½ hour ago. Have been quiet all day. [Have] taken no med. but 5 gr. Salicylate soda every 2 hours. Now am going to bed. I take 1 gr ----- . Have taken also ½ Seidlitz Powder.

March 1: Friday.

7 A.M. Took ¼ gr. sulph. morph. with atropine at bed time last night; had taken a Seidlitz powder in two doses in the P.M. Slept well till near midnight. Got up, looked at the watch, went to bed again and did not get a spell, which was surprising to me as it had occurred very often in getting into bed again. [I] soon went to sleep and did not wake until 2 ½. Then after getting into bed, slept till 4 ½; then had a spell, took nothing, got up at 6; went down, opened the draughts for the fire. Think I will not take med. today, save Salicylate soda which, I forgot today, [and which] I took several times yesterday.

Had a letter from Joseph yesterday. Spokane County & City [are] booming.

10 P.M. Slept pretty well last night, but during this forenoon was pretty shabby, as some folks say when not well. However, I rode out to Stout's more than 3 miles and called a Bill of \$80.00. Left some other bills as I came home, and had but one spell while away. A beautiful day.

Went to Norris[town] after dinner to make a deposit of \$102 in 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank. Got some medicine for myself. Home by 5 P.M.

Had one spell while away but, except then, felt better than for several days. Have had two attacks since I came home.

March 2: Saturday.

9 P.M. Had many severe spells last night, and all this morning. Went soon after breakfast to Norristown for med. Got Wyeth's pills of 1/8 gr. morph. and 1/100 gr. Atropia. Took one at 10 ½. Got also sol. Strychnia 1 gr. to 1 oz. aq.; took 6 drops of that also. [Was] home by 11 A.M.

At noon took a dose of each again. About 2 o'clock felt the Atropia in dryness of throat, &c., and it prevented the recurrence of the spells greatly.

Have had but one hard spell this afternoon, that was immediately after awaking from a nap of an hour at 2 ½ P.M. The atropia still manifests itself in the dryness of fauces, &c.

Visited Charles Spencer's wife and collected rent from Italian this evening.

Thomas Yocom has come from Jawood Lukens to stay at night with me. At 9 ½ o'clock took 1/80 gr. Strychnia. Have had no hard spell this evening.

March 3: Sunday.

Slept pretty well last night. Had quite a strong spell after awaking at 11 ½ P.M. yesterday; slept again till 2 A.M. (this morning), then had a spell, then took 1/8 gr. morph. & 1/100 of Atropia. Since rising have had a spell.

I was in the house all day nearly and [was] very well till after supper. Then had one spell, but not very hard.

Bertha & Thomas and Follen all here today. The pen drops blots.

March 4: Monday.

7 A.M. Rainy morning This is Inauguration day. At 12 o'clock (noon) Mr. Harrison, son of a former President, Wm. Henry Harrison, will be made President of these United States for four years.

10 P.M. I have been in the house all day, save a few trips to the office. Thousands have gone to Washington. I have had but two full spells of heart trouble. Have been all this evening at writing, from previous notes, the history of our family.

March 5: Tuesday.

I had taken 3 doses yesterday of ¼ gr. of morph. and 1/100 gr. Atropia; also took 2 doses of 1/80 of Strychnia. Went to bed at 10 P.M.. Could not sleep till after midnight. Then slept for a short time with singular dreams. When awake I would talk aloud and was dazed and could not get away from that condition until just before rising at 6 ½ A.M. Had several light spells through the night.

The medicine has taken away my appetite almost entirely. I will try to do without medicine today. I am in a tight place. No security at all from this distressing attack, but am clear of many more painful and disagreeable diseases. So will try to be content. My loss of appetite and growing bodily weakness are discouraging.

5 P.M. Susan & Frannie came here at 3 P.M., and Mrs. Emily, Miss Emily and Mrs. Elizabeth Corson, wife of George, came a few minutes later. They had a pleasant time, and with me time passed pleasantly. They have now all left for home.

I had had a nap, and had a spell before they came and another while they were here, but not very bad ones.

March 7: Thursday.

Been pretty well all day. No spells. Took no medicine. Think the morph. & Atropia have done the good, with strychnia too perhaps.

March 8: Friday.

Several spells today, but not hard ones.

March 9: Saturday.

Two spells last night and a good half dozen today. Last now just about five minutes. Have taken morph., Atropia & Strychnia twice today. Have had several spells. Had consultation at McGonagles in case of his daughter, with Dr. McKinsy [McKenzie].

Almost fear to go to bed lest I get spells in the night, or can't sleep well. Slept finely last night, only two spells.

March 10: Sunday.

7 A.M. Had three spells last night, one at 11 ½, one at 3, one 5 this morning. Slept well between the times. I had taken 1/8 morph. & 1/100 Atropia 3 times on Saturday before midnight. So, this morning my mouth is dry and parched by the Atropia. Got up and dressed and came downstairs feeling pretty well. How I shall fair today I can't say. Just before breakfast, I lay down on the lounge to await breakfast. Had been there but a few minutes when I was struck with palpitation.

Noon. My palpitation lasted until 20 minutes of twelve (noon). Jawood Lukens & wife (Susan) came at 9 A.M.

10 P.M. Had no spell all the afternoon. I was quite well until nine o'clock almost, then [had] a light spell, and I took one pill, morph 1/8, Atropia 1/100.

March 11: Monday.

8 A.M. From bed-time (10 P.M. yest.) until present time, I have had 14 spells very [bad] for 4 to 7 minutes in time, although [I took] two of the morph. & Atropia pills, and 1/8 gr. sulph. morph. in the first two hours. After that [took] no more med. till now. I will now begin with Quinine gr. iii every 2 hours.

One P.M. Have not had a spell since 9 o'clock this morning, though I had two between 8 & 9 A.M. I have been busy with my writing & reading and have visited a patient a mile & a half away.

10 P.M. Went to Norristown as a witness. Got there at 2 o'clock. Case postponed. Home by 4 P.M. No spell.

Bertha came at 5 ½ to stay all night. I remained free from spells till I went to bed. The Belladonna seemed to be all out of me. So at 9 o'clock I took a pill, morph. 1/8, Atropia 1/100. Went to bed. Slept till 2 ½, had a spell; another at 5. Took another pill; rose at 6 ½.

March 12: Tuesday.

7 ½ o'clock. Since I got up, I have had two severe spells before breakfast.

3 P.M. Have been asleep since 1 ½ P.M.. Have just risen and have had a severe spell, lasting just seven minutes, and just recovered from the attack and [am] going to swallow another 1/8 morph & 1/100 Atropia, the fountain pen drops the ink at times and that accounts for blots.

10 P.M. Have gotten along pretty well this afternoon. Whether because I am pretty strong under the use of Atropia or not I can't say. Have taken none since three o'clock. Will not take any now.

March 13: Wednesday.

7 A.M. Had no spell last night. Slept pretty well. Will try to get along without taking the pills today.

I am ashamed of these blots. They came from something wrong in the fountain pen. 6 P.M. Have had one spell. [Have] taken no powder today, till just now.

March 14: Thursday.

[Am] pretty poorly. Had two spells last night. Have been quite troubled with them today. Am exceedingly miserable. Was to have gone to Phila. this P.M. to meet an Alienist from Canada. Can't go.

March 16: Saturday.

8 o'clock. Rested well last night; have taken no morph. or Belladonna for two days. They made me so costive and so destroyed my appetite that I concluded to take no more for a time, to see how I would be. I had no spell at all last night, though I had one yesterday morning and one in the afternoon. Both occurred while I was in the carriage. I rode out in the forenoon and in the afternoon merely to have the time in the open air, and it was then the spells occurred.

This morning I feel more "like myself."

10 P.M. Have had no spell today. Rode a few miles in the forenoon and a few in the afternoon. Took no medicine. Now for bed.

March 17: Sunday.

8 o'clock A.M. Slept pretty well. Was awake at 2 this morning, and I found that my heart was beating at 68 strong, full and hard the artery was. It seemed to be just as it has been before the pain would occur in my chest, but the pain did not come and after 5 minutes or more, the pulse came down to between 50 & 60, and after a time, I slept again, but was awakened somewhat in the same way about 4 o'clock. I then took 30 drops Tct. Digitalis and 1/8 gr. of morph. and went to bed. Did not wake till 6 ½, then dressed and

came downstairs, but did not feel well about the region of the heart. At 7 o'clock I was struck with palpitation. I tried cold water in vain, then hot water in vain, and now at 8 A.M. it [the heart] is battering away at 140 or more in a minute, and yet it is not so unpleasant to me as the other spells, though they rarely last longer than from five to seven minutes & then may be absent for hours.

10 P.M. The palp. cont'd. till 3 P.M. = 8 hours. When it went off, it left me feeling better than I have been for three weeks. I have felt quite comfortable and like my former self all the afternoon.

Follen came at 1 ½ P.M. and Ellwood M. and wife at 4 P.[M.]. So having Frannie Yocom with us too, we seemed to be almost a crowd.

March 18: Monday.

9 A.M. Up at 6 ½, breakfast at 7. Went to Conshohocken with Follen and Frannie Yocom, to get them there at 8. As we went down, I was struck with palp. Said nothing about it to them; bought some Clover Seed and brought it up to my 12 ½ acre lot for the man to sow. Came home with it [palpitation] still on me, and have had time to write this.

Noon. Palp. went off at 11 A.M.; had it 3 hours.

Ten (10) P.M. Rec'd. many letters, also a request from the Prof. of Vet. Surgery in University of Pa. to get funds, to ask the Representatives to vote for the appropriation of 100,000 Dollars for the Institution. While doing this at 5 P.M., had palp. again [which] lasted till 7 P.M. Sent letter to Joseph this morning.

March 19: Tuesday.

6 ½ A.M. Slept pretty well last night, but every time I got awake, I had a light attack of the spells, one a pretty hard spell from jumping into bed as is my wont. I find that even a quick walk of only a few yards increases my heart's action up to about 70, from 52 or 56, its usual rate. So I must be very careful.

March 24: Sunday.

8 A.M. As may be seen, I have not written for several days. I have had almost no spells since last Tuesday, not one since Wednesday.

Have been well and with quite an excellent appetite, and sleep well since Wednesday. Yesterday I attended to four patients, one of them I visited 3 times, another twice. Also went to Norristown and Conshohocken. So was very tired last night at bed-time, and feel this morning that I must be careful not to do so much again. But I really felt yesterday when at this work, as though I could do as much as I had done years gone by. It is not a fact though, by a "long way."

I attribute my recovery from the Spells to the use of about 30 drops of best Tinct. Digitalis, taken before every meal for a few days.

Had many letters the past week, from Joseph, Dr. Anna Lukens, Dr. Foreman, Frannie, Miss Phebe C. Wright, Dr. Ch. H. Thomas, &c., &c.

March 25: Monday.

10 P.M. Have had some slight attacks or spells today, very light, mere threatenings. Was free from even a threatening of the spells for about 5 or 6 days. Had

three attacks of palp. within three days but [were] instantly arrested by a glass of cold, quite cold water taken quickly.

March 26: Tuesday.

Noon. Last night at 2 A.M. had a regular spell, but not very hard, again on getting up at 6 A.M. [a] little harder. I got ready to go to Norristown to the Prohibitory Convention, and just as I was ready to start at 9 o'clock, I got a severe spell. After it was over, Mary went with me. Took Tacie up some things; went to the Convention at 10 ½. Staid till noon. Was appointed Chairman of the Com. on Resolutions, and on another Committee. Declined them on account of physical disability and a necessity to return home soon.

Got some oysters and some medicine and reached home before 1 P.M. Had a good dinner of oysters, &c., and felt very well. At 3 o'clock got ready, after a short nap, to ride out. Was attacked and had an unusually severe spell. After it was over, went a few miles in the carriage to see a couple of old men friends who are sick and were very desirous to have me see them.

Supper at 6 ½. While eating I was attacked, but at once took Paregoric drams ii, Alcohol drams ii, syrup drams iii. It was really not intended to be a bad spell or else what I drank put it away. It was quite light.

March 28: Thursday.

7 A.M. Had a poor night. Did not sleep till 5 A.M. Had several light spells during last evening and on till midnight. [I] then concluded I would abandon the stimulants and by a fair dose of morpheum, at midnight took 3/8 gr, had no spell at all for an hour, though that was a proof of the great value of the anodyne. Then at 1 A.M. a very hard & long spell occurred. I say long one, the longest spells are only from 5 to 8 minutes. Had three more bad spells before rising for the day. Follen was here all night. I want him to see my friend Dr. Charles Thomas in relation to the use of Nitro-glycerin, and also of Nitrite Amyl, in my case, when he gets to Phila. this morning. Dr. H. C. Wood advised me to take ¼ drop of Nitro-glycerin 3 times a day; if insufficient, then ½ a drop. Dr. Anna Lukens advises 3 to 5 drops every 3 hours. How strange that they should differ so widely in the dose of so potent a drug.

Follen will see him today and see if he really uses Nitrite Amyl in doses of 3 to 5 drops. A patient died on the table when it was given to him by Dr. Levis some years ago.

I had a very bad spell just after I came down stairs this morning at 6 ½ A.M.

10 P.M. Have had no spell save one half an hour ago, which arose probably from an effort on account of costiveness. It was a very hard and long one, say 10 minutes.

March 29: Friday.

No spell all night, awake but once. Slept profoundly, not sleeping [the] night before. I [had a] light spell this morning soon after coming down stairs. Took hot water with some relief.

March 30: Saturday.

Yesterday I took ¼ gr. morph. in [the] morning at 7 & in afternoon, at 7, Tct. Dig.

before every meal, 33 drops; no stimulants. Had many light spells. Rode to Norris[town], Consho., &c. Bertie Yocom came up at 11 o'clock. Appetite pretty good despite the spells. I had  $\frac{3}{4}$  gr. morph. from morning till bed time today. To bed now, 10 P.M.

March 31: Sunday.

Did not get to sleep till one A.M. this day. Had a spell then, because I had gotten up. Strange that I always get it if I get out of bed, though feeling nothing of it till I do get up. Awoke again at 6  $\frac{1}{2}$ , and another spell.

After getting up, I had an increase of pain just where the left Sciatic nerve issues from the spine. So after breakfast, I went to bed. While there, I was free of it, but on rising at noon, it became quite severe, so severe that I called the man to summon Dr. Leedom, with his hypodermic Syringe but afterwards did not send him. Finally in half an hour or so, it got better. About three o'clock it was entirely gone over to the outside of the right leg below the knee, and while this affected in the two places, I felt quite well about the chest.

Five P.M. I have taken no medicine today. Will do without any, if possible.

Bertha Yocom Senior [is] here today, Follen too.

April 1: Monday.

Sunday night 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock A.M. I took no medicine since Saturday night. I had taken  $\frac{3}{4}$  gr. through Saturday. So thought I would take nothing today. At 6 o'clock this morning, I awoke with a pain in my left iliac region where the Sciatic nerve comes from the spine under the glutei muscles, not severe but uncomfortable. After "being up" awhile, it went partially away. I got along till bed time pretty well, but had many slight spells. At bed time (10 P.M.) mixed a quarter grain morph, or rather had mixed it in the morning to take if the pain got worse, as it did not, did not take it, but as that pain became unbearable after getting into bed, I got up at 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  and took it.

I have had a good many pretty severe heart spells since, and now at 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock Monday morning. I have no rest and so much discomfort from the many spells, not from the pain in the sciatic nerve, that I conclude to take  $\frac{1}{4}$  grain of morph. Night before last, I had a very good night after having taken 3 doses of one quarter grain each. But I feel sometimes when the spells are on me, as if Death were impending, and I want to write down now, just what I do in the medicine way, so that if I should die by myself, that I shall not be suspected of having incautious taken an over-dose of medicine. So now I will take my quarter grain and go to bed. Mary has come down and is standing near to me. She had missed the light and was afraid something had happened [to] me.

Six o'clock A.M. Slept none last night, or at least very little. But as always in the case when I take morph., which fortunately is not often, I do not feel sleepy.

A nice warm morning, but foggy looking yet. It will clear soon I think.

April 2: Tuesday.

Was pretty well yesterday but had several light spells. Slept fairly good last night, save that twice I had pretty hard spells, when I got up to see time or urinate.

I ought here to mention a singular symptom which shows itself now, has for three weeks or thereabout. When the slow beats of 31 in a minute are going on, a good strong



jerk or pulsation follows every beat, in the carotid artery below the right ear. It is quite strong and follows at nearly the middle of the interval, rather before the middle. Today since I took the Digitalis, I have felt considerable nausea and weakness, but have been to Consho. and other places. I was so greatly nauseated at 4 P.M. and felt so weak, that I concluded it was partly owing to an entire absence of morph. since Sunday night, so I took 1/8 of a grain.

April 3: Wednesday.

I slept none last night till 5 this morning. Had many bad spells through the night and am weak and indisposed to rise, but have gotten up, and though I have just had a bad spell, hope to get through the day without feeling much worse.

10 P.M. Have taken of the Celeste [Celastrus], morph. & also three times of a Tonic of Calasaya [sic]: [Calisaya] Bark 5 grs., strychnia 1/100, Iron 2 grs., in form of Elixir, one teaspoonful 3 times a day. Have scarcely had more than one decided spell all day.

Follen is here to stay all night.

April 4: Thursday.

6 ½ A.M. Slept well. Awake only twice and then, soon asleep again. I had had no sleep the previous night, and had kept up all day. Was to see a patient, an old friend near to Consho. Went after dinner to take Frannie Day, who had come up in the morning, and Mary to Norristown, to meet Bertha Yocom, and then all went to see Margaret, Follen's wife. Mary & myself got home before supper-time. The others went to Phila. in the cars.

Had but one spell last night. Am taking since yesterday, [a] weak sol. morph. & the Tonic Elixir spoken of above.

7 o'clock. Have been going all day at one thing after another, had several spells, the pain being in the back from the "small" of the back to the cervical vertebra.

Deposited \$320.60 in Bank. Have there now 903.66.

Ellwood Dutill, hired man, I have just paid in full and "Matt" Lewis who left me more than a year ago is now installed here again.

Have had several light spells today, painful enough they were to have kept many persons in bed, but they were lighter than a few days ago.

April 5: Friday.

7 A.M. Slept pretty well last night. This morning I picked up a Daily Herald (Norristown) and my eye fell on this item which I paste here. It refers to an enterprise of daughter Tacie. Strange that I had not known of it. And yet it now occurs to me that Tacie had spoken of her teaching some poor children to sew, &c., but it was not done in a way to make a special impression on me. I must now commend her for it. It is a laudable undertaking.

**Editor's note:** The pasted clipping reads as follows: "Useful and Also Entertaining, Mrs. William Cresson started about eight months ago a sewing school for little girls to meet every Saturday afternoon at her house on Sandy Hill. At the start there were six scholars, now there are from thirty to forty little girls. They meet from half-past 1 to

half-past 4 o'clock. Miss Carrie Cresson, Misses Louise and Florie Shaw assist Mrs. Cresson; and every child receives every Saturday from her own library a book to read during the week. Sewing, crocheting, knitting and embroidery are taught.

She has also been invited to participate in the Hospital enterprise, and has commenced work with the 'financial Committee.'"

April 6: Saturday.

10 P.M. Up at 6 ½. Wrote two letters before breakfast. Went to Consho. and visited Quinn as I came back. [A] cold disagreeable damp air day. Did not leave home in afternoon save to go a mile & see an old patient. Had workmen painting house roof.

April 7: Sunday.

Had two pretty hard spells in the forenoon. Jawood Lukens & Susan, and also Follen came about 10 A.M. The two men went to Quaker Meeting.

In the afternoon Samuel Tyson, our County's best mineralogist & his wife, Sarah, daughter of our Penna. United States Senator in the days of Jackson's Presidency about 1828, and later one of my friends for many years, who with a few others, specially my Brother Alan W. Corson, formed the Montgomery Co. Cabinet of Natural Science, came at 2 o'clock and staid a couple of hours. Daughter Susan was with them too the last hour. I had a few spells, despite morph. & stimulant.

April 8: Monday.

6 ½ A.M. Had two spells in the night, and two quite good long naps last night.

8 A.M. Have had a bad spell since rising, but have concluded I will take no medicine today. Poor appetite for breakfast.

10 P.M. Have been very poorly all day. Did not much but sleep on the lounge till nearly dinner time. After dinner slept till 2 P.M. Then got up, moved about out doors and felt miserable, weak, stupid, indisposed to read or write. At 4 o'clock took Bertie Yocom to Conshohocken, saw two patients and [got] my rent for the Gate House.

After supper had a very hard spell, brot on by straining at stool. It nearly always brings it on. Had had several throughout the day.

From the Public Ledger. "Thomas Hovenden's Picture, 'In the Hands of the Enemy' has immediately commanded to recognition due to the most important production of American art of the present time. It was given the place of honor, the line centre of the main gallery, at the National Academy Spring Exhibition, and attracted the admiring attention of artists and connoisseurs at the receptions and private viewings which preceded the public opening of the public exhibition on Monday last. It also had the honor of first sale and at the highest price ever paid for a picture of the National Academy, namely \$5500, five thousand five hundred dollars. It was purchased on sight on the morning of buyer's day by Mr. Robbins Battell of Norwalk, Conn., the owner of Mr. Hovenden's 'Last Moments of John Brown.'

The John Brown picture was painted on Commission, and it is to Mr. Battell's Credit that he is the first and only man in this Country to give a commission to an American for an American picture of the highest order.

It is a rather remarkable fact that no other living artist has ever received a commission for a work of the first rank from private hands. Two or three State orders

for historic pictures constitute the only practical encouragement our artists have been given to produce works in the highest rank of art. It remained to be said further respecting Mr. Battell's possession of this picture that he leaves the copy right in the hand of the artist, an indication that it will be reproduced in black and white, and he leaves the pictures in the artists hands for exhibition in other cities after the close of the Academy in New York.

As mentioned, the John Brown picture is owned by Mr. Battell and this he has permitted to be sent to Paris to represent Mr. Hovenden at the Centenary International Exposition.

The John Brown picture will unquestionably attract marked attention in Paris, both on account of the subject which is of universal interest and on account of the treatment, which will command the respectful consideration of the "artistic community."

There were various communications of like commendatory character [which] appeared in the Newspapers. Mr. Hovenden, I hear, has a number.

April 9: Tuesday.

10 P.M. Began with  $\frac{1}{4}$  drop Nitro-Glycerin 3 times a day this morning. Take also the Tonic Elixir Calasaya [sic]:

[Calisaya] Bark - 7 grs. Quinine  
Iron - 2 grs. Iron,  
Sulph. Strychnine -  $\frac{1}{100}$  Strychnine,  
3 times a day;

Two or 3 times inhaled 1 drop Nitro-Amyl.

Rec'd. [a] very interesting letter in relation to the use of those medicines and of the use of Nitro Glycerin from Dr. Jacob Price of West Chester.

April 10: Wednesday.

10 P.M. I have been taking the Nitro-Glycerin in the dose named by Dr. H. C. Wood and without perceptible effect. I am weak and have had many spells, but have been in consultation with Dr. Leedom in Mr. Hitner's case, and in another case, and with Geo. Highley, M.D. on Mrs. McNulty's case, but she died before I got there, but only a few minutes before. Then went in the afternoon to Norristown to see Drs. E. M. Corson and L. W. Read about having Uncle William's Biography put in the Biography now being published by Mr. Freedley, also to deposit some money in Bank.

April 11: Thursday.

10 P.M. Been poorly today, that is, had several spells, pretty severe ones too. Did not go away a great deal. Had the men cutting the hedge, and a boy whitewashing.

April 12: Friday.

Slept well last night. Awoke at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  this morning, felt well, no spell. Awoke at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  with a spell coming. [It] was a pretty hard one. Slept then till  $6\frac{1}{2}$ , got up & had one.

10 P.M. Did a great deal of riding today, not practicing, and for 4 hours had Moses Auge here and was engaged all the time showing him the labors of my life as a Practitioner of Medicine, and writer, and the work done for the Recognition of Women

Physicians and for Trustees to appoint women doctors to have charge of the women Insane. Altogether it was too much for me. I was weary beyond measure.

Moses was sent for by me to prepare for me an autobiography, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> vol. of Deacon's "Biography of Distinguished Pennsylvanians." I therefore wanted to make him conversant with the facts, so that he might put them in his own language. I shall try to have his name to it.

April 13: Saturday.

[Was] very poorly all day. Staid at home, and had many light spells till 4 P.M. when I took Mary to Norristown to see Follen and wife.

April 18: Thursday.

There has been little, if any change in my condition thus far this week. Have had quite a good many spells. Have taken small doses of Nitro-Glycerin several times a day, also breathed Nitrite Amyl, three drops of a 1 per cent alcoholic solution during the spells; dropped them upon the palm of my hand and then covered my mouth with the hand and breathed the Amyl rapidly. Did not produce much effect. I now have a glass lozenges, holding 5 minims. One of these to be crushed in a handkerchief and then breathed quickly. Have had two hard spells today, but still have been better than for a week.

Have rec'd. and written many letters every day since last writing, from & to physicians and friends. Have slept well at nights, save that two or three times every night have had spells whenever I would awake and get up.

Bertha Yocom is with us again, Bertha the younger I mean, and she recovered her health finely.

April 25: Thursday.

It is a week since last writing and all this time there has been no perceptible amendment in my trouble. I have taken of Nitroglycerin one drop five times a day for several days. The spells though not more than five or six in 24 hours, perhaps were very threatening, so I began after exhausting my liquid nitrite of Amyl to inhale from the glass globules. When the spell came on, I would break one in a handkerchief and inhale. It was prompt in its relief. I have done that for the last two days. Yesterday and today have only done it twice per day.

Despite the advice of medical friends, I do not think it can be right to take the N.G. which is a powerful stimulant, a dangerous one, in even a drop or two, and which has not a tendency to expand the blood vessels but possibly to contract them and then have to take the N.A. to antagonize it. So if I should have spells tonight, I will change treatment tomorrow.

April 26: Friday.

Had two pretty bad spells this morning before daylight. Took the Amyl with quick relief.

3 P.M. Have had three bad spells since.

April 27: Saturday.

I got up. Now 9 A.M. [I] concluded to take no med. today but a little morph.  
10 P.M. Have had no spells today of any consequence.

April 28: Sunday.

Felt weak & miserable but went to Spring Mill to meet Dr. Charles Herman Thomas at 9:56. He came, staid till 12:15 P.[M.] I felt pretty well all the while he was here. Lay down after dinner, had a bad spell at 1 ½, again at 3 & 7 and a few in the evening.

April 29: Monday.

Began again with Nitro-Glycerin 1 drop [of a] 1/100 sol. every 4 hours. Had several spells through the day.

April 30: Tuesday.

7 A.M. Cont'd. to have a spell every time I awoke last night, four times before this writing.

10 P.M. Had no spell today till 6 P.M., though I was at Consho. and busy all the forenoon, and at Norristown after dinner. Took the N.G. 3 times today. This is the Centennial Anniversary of Washington's Inauguration as President at New York.

May 2: Thursday.

Yesterday had but one or two hard spells. Took 1¼ drops Nitroglycerin every 3 hours. Rode to Consho. & some short rides beside. Busy at home. Had one bad spell at 2 this morning. Took Nitrite Amyl.

May 3: Friday.

[Was] pretty well yesterday, had only two spells. Last night had two spells, one at 11 o'clock and one at 3 this morning, also one at 5 when I got up.

Bullock's sale will ----- [empty space].

May 5: Sunday.

10 P.M. Beautiful day. Was up at 6 A.M., wrote & read a good deal until 10 o'clock, then broke off and went to "Meeting." Heard a Stranger, Dr. Henry P. Haines, preach. He held on a long time, reiterated pet phrases and impressed me as being a vain man. Came home and found my nephew Thomas Adamson, son of my Sister Mary, here. He is "Consul General of the United States to Central America at Panama." He is looking for a new and more desirable place from the new Administration. He left before we dined, to dine at Emily Corson's. At 2 ½ P.M., Mr. John Oberholtzer and his wife who is a Poetess of some distinction, their son and Prof. Patton of the University of Pa., The Wharton Department, came to see me. After supper, Dr. E. M. Corson & children also came. In the intervals of visitors, I wrote to Joseph, and to Dr. Saml. Ayres of Pittsburgh. Was well all day.

May 6: Monday.

10 P.M. [Was] very well this morning. Was up at 6 A.M., wrote to Dr. H. C.

Wood of Phila. and to Dr. Bennett of Norristown Hospital. Follen not feeling well. I went to Norristown to attend to some matters for him & myself. Called to see Tacie and Carrie. The latter is better. Home at noon. Afternoon went to see many who owe me money. Was very well all day until 2 hours ago when I got a severe spell.

[Wrote] letters to Prof. Wood and Dr. Ayres. [Had] a bad spell after going to bed.

May 7: Tuesday.

6 A.M. Had two bad spells in the night. Sunday & yesterday [I] had no spells. Felt as well as a year ago. Took no other med. than 3 doses of N.G. and ate pretty largely.

May 9: Thursday.

Nothing new, save that I am a little better than at last writing. Still actively at work, despite the spells, taking nearly 2 drops N. Glycerin every 4 hours.

May 10: Friday.

[Had a] pretty good night. Pretty well today save two or three spells. Letter from Halberstadt. Wrote Postal to Dr. Thomas, and one to [the] Editor, Medical Standard, Chicago. Excessively hot day.

Visit to Laurel Hill with Mary, where we met Bertha & her son Hiram yesterday. We met to decide on the kind of monument we would have for her. The girls, Frannie & Bertha, had selected one. I would prefer one like Edward and Carrie have, which is very unlike the one they have selected.

May 11: Saturday.

[Have] about four or five spells every day. Slight exertion, stooping to do things, a quick walk, bring it. [Am] taking 2 drops N.G. every 3 hours.

At Bank today; at B. Hill; busy all day.

May 12: Sunday.

Up at ¼ of 6 A.M. Had slept pretty well, but as soon as I got out of bed, the aching in my shoulder and the sense of pulsation of the heart all over me, indicating the disturbed action of the heart. It was a wretched feeling and I felt as though I would not be able to dress myself, but I inhaled some Sulphuric Ether and that seemed to drive out the aching and distress of body. Got myself dressed and since then have been busy in getting my books arranged properly. It is now 8 o'clock and breakfast is ready.

Our good woman in the kitchen has been not well for several days and this morning seems discouraged, thinks she will have to "give up." So I will give her a very small dose, 1/24 gr. morph., & 1/3 of a tea spoonful Tct. Lavender.

May 17: Friday.

Since last Sunday, strange to say, I have been free from the bad heart trouble and pretty well, doing a great deal of various kinds of things, writing a great deal in way of correspondence. Can lie down and get up without bringing on the spells. How strange! How strange I say, because up to Friday night a week ago, I kept steadily on taking the

Nitroglycerin 1½ drops, increased the last two days to 2 drops four or five times a day, and yet no relief from the spells; then quit it and have none to speak of since. Quit it & since from that day, have had no spells. Am only taking 1/60 gr. Strychnia 3 times a day and have had no spells. Have taken Nitroglycerin steadily for weeks 4 or 5 times daily, increasing from ½ a drop to 2 drops at last, and yet no relief. Now I will quit it.

Had some slight feelings like those which formerly prevailed in the beginning of the spells, last night. Forgot to take the Strychnia yesterday. Relief from the spells not due to Strychnia.

Strange, is'nt it, that during this week instead of the spells I have twice had the old palpitation and the violent sneezes which I used to have and which have been entirely absent all the time I have had the spells. Palp. and sneezing fits of old time come back.

[A] good sign.

Follen has been poorly for several weeks, but [was] attending to business until now. [He staid] home yesterday.

P.M. Robert R. Corson had written me that he would be to see me, would be at Sp. Mill at 3:39. I met him, brot him home. We soon had Miss Nina Read and her friend Miss Harris of LockHaven with us as visitors. After they left, Tea. Then Robt. and self went to Norristown. Called to see daughter Tacie & Carrie who has been sick with Typhoid Fever. Then went on to see Follen. Found him poorly; then to Dr. Read's & Ellwood's office and there we three, not Robt., agreed to have Wm.'s Biography and portrait published in Freedley's Biographies of Distinguished Pennsylvanians; then home.

May 18: Saturday.

Six o'clock morning. The End is near at Last.

My Diary is full. In it is a sketch only of the trials and vicissitudes, the joys and sorrows of four years in the life of a man of more than 79 of age when it was begun.

It is over 20' of 7. I am struck with palpitation.

Some persons complain from early till late life, of the world and the hard lot that they have borne, and it seems to be considered by young people, even those of fifty or sixty years, that "old people had better be dead, they can have no pleasure in living." The following which I have just read in the "Friend's Intelligencer" of May 18<sup>th</sup>, this day, speaks my sentiments.

"The Bright Side

"I see more light

Than darkness in the world. Mine eyes are quick

To catch the first dim radiance of the dawn,

And slow to note the cloud that threatens storm.

The fragrance and beauty of the rose

Delight me so, slight thought I give the thorn;

And the sweet music of the Lark's clear song

Stays longer with me than the night hawk's cry,

And even in this great throe of pain called life,

I find a rapture linked with each despair,

Well worth the price of anguish. I detect

More good than evil in humanity.

Love lights more fires than hate extinguishes,  
And men grow better as the world grows old.”

I did not expect when in 85 I began this diary, that I should live to fill it. Now, 84 years 7 mos. ten days old.

**Editor’s note:** At this point in the diary Dr. Corson writes nothing about his son Follen. Instead we find two newspaper clippings reporting the death of Charles Follen Corson. I shall copy here a large portion of one verbatim:

#### DEATH WHILE DELIRIOUS

##### FATAL ACCIDENT TO C. FOLLEN CORSON OF NORRISTOWN

Ill from Fever, During a Temporary Aberation He Falls from a Second-Story Window of His Residence to a Brick Pavement in the Yard, and Dies in a Very Short Time.

The community was shocked on Thursday by the news of the almost instant death of Charles Follen Corson, a well known member of the Philadelphia Bar, but since his recent marriage residing on Swede street above Marshall, Norristown. The public scarcely knew that he was unwell, and the large circle of his acquaintanceship makes the regret at his untimely decease the wider spread.

Mr. Corson has been ill for more than a year past. For the last three weeks he has been suffering from neuralgia, but managed to attend to his practice by daily trips to Philadelphia. About a week ago, however, he was compelled to give up work; and has since been confined to bed. A slow fever complicated his disease, and at times he was delirious. In consequence of this tendency, somebody was always with him.

About 2 o’clock on Thursday afternoon he was seated on the edge of his bed, his wife also being in the room. The windows were open in order to keep the apartment cool. Mr. Corson asked for some warm water to wash his hands and face, and his wife started to get it. Before leaving the room, she went to lower the windows; but by her husband’s request let them up. Stepping out into the hall she gave directions to a servant to procure the water; and on her return a moment later, the room was empty. A quick glance out the window revealed the form of her husband senseless on the brick pavement in the yard below.

Col. John W. Schall, who lives next door, was dressing in his room when the sad thing occurred. He heard a crushing thud, and at first thought it was a shutter striking against a wall. Then, a moment later, the idea entered his mind that a man had fallen; and looking out his window he saw Mr. Corson lying in his yard, and a moment later Mrs. Corson rushed out. Col. Schall hastily crossed over and assisted in carrying him into the house, but he was then in a dying condition, and expired a few minutes later. He never spoke after the fall.

The funeral will take place at half-past two o’clock on Monday. Internment private.

May 31: Friday.

The Flood and Loss of Thousands of Lives at Johnstown, Pa. See page 11 [ June 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup> ]



June 1: Saturday.

5 ½ P.M. My last Diary closed May 18<sup>th</sup>, Saturday morning at 6 o'clock, two weeks ago, two weeks of much anxiety, and distress at last. My other book had become full, and as Follen had been in the habit of buying all my blank books and stationary, I waited for him to do it, but on that day, [the] 18<sup>th</sup>, he came home from the City very sick, and I put off getting another book from day to day, hoping that he would get well, but alas, on Thursday at 2 ¼ P.M., May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1889, in his delirium, he either jumped or fell from the big window which was up and close to his bed, and he fell on the brick pavement & died without a struggle in a minute or two. For the last two weeks, Dr. Ellwood M. Corson and myself have attended him closely. For several days, he had distressing pain in his head. When that was relieved, his stomach, which had been occasionally rejected food, rejected everything which he swallowed. He took but little except milk & that "came up" every time.

Thursday morning we saw him at 9 o'clock. I felt sure then that he would not get well, and so told Susan Lukens and my Mary when I came home. I told Follen I would come again in the evening, or afternoon at 3 ½ P.M. Dr. Ellwood and daughter Tacie Cresson came down to tell me of the dreadful accident. Sad as it was, it was a kind relief to me, for I had fear that he would go out of his mind, and no one could foresee the result.

In the evening I went up to see Margaret his wife, and found her composed and in consulting her about the arrangements for the funeral, she said she was willing to have every thing done as I wished.

Went up to Follen's this morning, after an early visit to Susan who is suffering from a severe neuralgia of the left arm and shoulder, and arranged with Ellwood & Margaret about needful matters. Robert was here before I returned at noon and staid a couple of hours. We looked over my Will, as Follen had told me if anything should happen, that was if he should die of his present disease, that I must change my Will at once. If I should not, Margaret would come in for his share, which was not necessary as she had money of her own, and would inherit from his Estate. So we looked over it, and made the parts to be dropped, and the words here and there to be altered. When he left, I wrote out the Will in the words Follen had used and dropped all that needed to be changed. Just after I had completed it, Walter H. Corson and his Sister Emily came in to see me, and I got them to witness my signature.

During all the past time that Follen was sick, I visited him often & was pretty well, taking only a tea spoonful of R<sub>x</sub> Calysaya Bark [Calisaya] (Cinchona)Bark

Iron & Strychnine 1/100

Three times daily.

How strange that while I was taking the giant remedies, I had no relief from my heart trouble, and as soon as I stopped them, I began to get better, and am now apparently nearly [as] well as before I got them.

The evening after Follen died, Ellwood telegraphed Joseph at Ft. Sherman. Next morning we got his answer that he "could not come at once, but would come soon."

Went early this morning to see Susan. She is no better. Jay Lukens and his Father went through the fierce wind and rain of the early morning to see where in their lot Follen shall be placed. His wife was willing that he should be placed there by the side of his other wife and child.

Robert R. Corson came here today at 3:29 to Sp. Mill, here at 4 P.M. We looked over my Will and consulted in relation to the coming funeral, and he left here at 5 P.M.

Helen Hovenden, my niece, and my daughter Tacy [sic] Cresson went to Norristown to do some things. Helen bought this diary and made me a present of it.

I have thus written some of the events of the past two weeks intervening between the last record in my former diary and today, and hope hereafter to make daily entries.  
H.C.

June 2: Sunday.

Five A.M. All asleep and I up. Slept well last night, only awoke twice, once at 1 ½, then 20' of 5 this morning. Got up and dressed immediately.

When I went to bed, after being up in the night, I had a light spell of oppression, with light pains in the shoulder, and a disturbed irregular action of the heart.

I feel more and more the loss of Follen. I feel too that I must have some one to take the care of my money matters. I think Robert R. Corson would be the proper person. My sons-in-law are all deeply engaged in business. Robert is in the money business, and a pretty good manager I think. I feel that I am in a precarious condition as regards life. The spell I had this morning had a peculiar distressing feel about it, but I am well enough now.

Six P.M. Frannie went down at 9 A.M. to see Susan, then from there to meet Bertha at Spring Mill. They got here just after 10 A.M., and in a few minutes more, Richard & Frannie Day arrived, and soon Jawood Lukens. Jawood went home before dinner. After dinner he came back & took Bertha up to Follen's; from there she expected to take the cars for Phila. & home.

Richard & Frannie left at 5 P.M. in their carriage for home in Germantown. Dr. David R. Beaver called during the afternoon to see me. It was a kind feeling that prompted him and I felt grateful to him for it.

Three times today I have had sudden attacks of palpitation and in every instance, as I had quick access to ice water, I by rapidly drinking a tumbler of it, put the palp. back. What a valuable thing for me. I have had one attack of the other trouble. I had slept an hour, and on getting up, it occurred, but was not hard.

#### The Great Disaster at Johnstown

On Friday May 31<sup>st</sup> there was a great rain storm throughout Pennsylvania, which flooded the rivers in the Western part of the State, as far east as Harrisburgh. At 5 P.M. or thereabouts, a dam on the Conamaugh [Conemaugh] River, this side of Johnstown, burst and swept the whole city nearly away. The dam was one mile & a quarter wide, [the] water 75 feet deep and backed the water for miles.

June 3: Monday.

5 ¼ A.M. Before I went to bed last night, I had a pretty strong attack of the "New Heart Trouble." Had to inhale Nitrite Amyl.

Ellwood came here just after sunset. He said all the arrangements for the funeral were, he thought, in order.

During last night I had moderate spells of the new heart trouble, and since I rose this morning, one. I feel that I am in a most precarious condition. How I shall get on today is a wonder to me.

I remained at home till one P.M. when a large close[d] carriage, sent by Dr. Ellwood M. Corson, came for us. Daughters Mary and Tacie and myself went in it to the funeral. Got there half an hour before the time. The relatives from Germantown, Phila. and other places were in attendance. Every thing was done in the quietest manner. Rev'd. Atkins, an Episcopal Clergyman pronounced the service quietly. Six Lawyers were pall-bearers: Mr. Mayne, who has his office in the same house as Follen's, Charles Hunsicker, Joseph Fornance, Lewis Childs, Captain Rennyson and Senator Henry Brown.

I do not think I ever saw a handsomer corpse. The face was so mild, sweet-looking. We reached home at 6 o'clock. I had had three spells of palp during the day, but they were put off pretty soon by ice-water drunk rapidly. We went to bed at 9 P.M., but I could not sleep till after midnight. Rose before five this morning. Had no spells of any kind during the night, and am feeling pretty well now. Have written a letter to Joseph & one to Aunt Harriet, and this all before breakfast, which is not in yet.

June 4: Tuesday.

Had no spell of any kind last night, but did not sleep till one A.M. and was up at 5 A.M.

After my mail at 9 ½ A.M., I went to Conshohocken to see how daughter Susan was with her neuralgia. Found her some better. [Was] home by noon. After noon directed my hired man. Had many little jobs done, to make the place look more clean & neat.

The mail had brot me another opera from my friend Dr. E. A. Wood of 1720 Sarah St., Pittsburgh. I read it through, more than 50 pages, and was greatly pleased with it, pleased to know that my friend has so great imaginative powers. Have written to him about it. Have had a letter from Miss Marianna Gibbons, a literary Lady to whom I shall write to ask her to criticize Wood's Opera for me.

June 5: Wednesday.

6 ¼ A.M. Up at 5 A.M. Have already written a letter to Hiram Corson, L.L.D., Ithaca, New York, who is about leaving for an extended tour of 17 months through Europe; the other to my son Joseph in Idaho.

Last evening I rec'd. letters from Doctor Ann Lukens, Wm. Cress, David Newport, Dr. Saml. Ayres.

In addition to writing to Joseph & Nephew Hiram, I have just written to Robt. R. Corson & to [empty space].

I am pretty well this morning.

Jawood Lukens and myself went to Follen's house last evening. His wife gave us his Will written by himself while sick. He leaves to his wife, one half of his Estate. The other half to his brothers and sisters, share & share alike.

June 6: Thursday.

Slept pretty well last night. Have been pretty well today. Have been to Consho. to see Susan, who is still in bed, and Dr. Highley was there to apply the Electrical Battery to her arm. While there at 10 o'clock, I was attacked with palp. As they had no ice water which I could drink quickly, it went on. Got home and read awhile about the Johntown flood, and it [the palp.] went off before noon.

This P.M. I rode to Chalkley Styer's to order some hay for Jawood Lukens. Mary was so lame with her crippled knee yesterday that I put a blister plaster on it last night. She has been in bed all day.

I feel indisposed to read, or even to reply to correspondents, a very unusual feeling. Sent \$10 to the Johnstown Fund.

Letter from Frannie. She expects to be up tomorrow.

June 7: Friday.

5 P.M. Was up at 5 this morning. Wrote to Joseph and to a friend. Broke Frannie from the cars. Am just home from taking her to Spring Mill, after a brief visit at Susan Lukens'. Jay Lukens & the officials from the Trust Company in Phila. yesterday went to Follen's late home and got from his wife the keys to unlock his safety box, and office keys, &c.

Today they are in Phila., taking an inventory of his effects. Follen's Will. He left his wife one half, Joseph and his Sisters the other half.

In the intervals from riding out, and from directing things about home, I am now engaged in reading Prof. Mitchell's "Stellar World."

What wonderful achievements have been wrought by Astronomers Kepler, Copernicus, Aristotle, Galileo, Newton and others. The results of their discoveries, the facts of the great distances of the stars as related are incredible to the common mind, and to all minds, only that they have been proved. Here is one statement: "Tens of thousands of years must roll away before the most swiftly moving of all the fixed stars shall complete even a small fragment of its mighty orbit."

Of the Telescope, he says, "should Sirius to escape its fiery glance start away from its sphere and wing its flight at a velocity of twelve millions of miles in every minute for a thousand years; nay, should it sweep onward at the same speed for ten thousand years, this stupendous distance cannot bury it from the persecuting gaze of man." How wonderful!!! And yet still greater wonders are recorded.

8 P.M. Rec'd. a letter from Joseph, the first since he rec'd. the telegram of Follen's death. He will be here soon, but I have advised him to take his time, not to inconvenience himself, as it can do no good.

June 8: Saturday.

10 P.M. Two days ago rec'd. [an] invitation from the Northampton Co. Med. Society to a dinner, to meet Prof. Traill Green.

Bertha came to Sp. Mill in the 4:25 train from Phila. I met her, and she is here now.

[In Johnstown] the work of digging out the bodies, of blowing up the great accumulations of thousands of tons of debris at the Bridge, and its multitude of bodies, is prosecuted by thousands of men, while the whole Country is pouring out its contributions of money and food and clothes and deep heart-felt sympathy.

June 9: Sunday.

10 P.M. The weather is now quite warm and the flies have shown themselves. The work at Johnstown goes on today. There are thousands of men clearing away the wreckage, and dead bodies of people and horses.

Bertha & myself went to the cemetery this P.M. Mary Roberts & son & son's wife & Nina Read, & Thos. Hovenden and Helen all were here to see Mary & myself last evening. James Yocom, Bertha's husband, came in the afternoon and staid "to tea."

June 10: Monday.

8 A.M. Had palpitation last night twice, but put it off after 20' or so with ice water; could not get it at first. After getting up at 5 o'clock, [I] was attacked again while writing a letter to Joseph. Took the ice-water quickly and put it off.

9 A.M. Took Bertha to the cars and have returned. Got two letters by morning mail. Have busied myself with many little matters today thus far.

Noon. Have just slept an hour after another palp. of 15 minutes. How strange that they come so frequently now.

9 P.M. Though subpoenaed to attend court, did not go. Kept about home, and had threatenings of the heart trouble again.

My answer to the Invitation of the Committee of nine physicians of the Northampton County Medical Society to be present at a dinner to Prof. Traill Green, M.D., L.L.D.

Maple Hill, June 10, 1889

W. L. Estes, M.D.

Dear Doctor

I have received the invitation of the Committee, appointed by the Northampton County Medical Society to be present at a dinner on the 20<sup>th</sup> to meet Dr. Traill Green.

Of the many eminent members of the profession who have honored me by their friendship not one is nearer to my heart than Professor Traill Green. He has long been to me a bright example of truth and honor to light the way in which I should walk. His friendship has been to me a source of great comfort, has cheered me when obstacles seemed almost insurmountable, has sustained my faith in the certain and good results of conscientious labor.

How sincere then is my regret that a recent and abiding sorrow and months of peril to life by night and by day prevent me from being present with all the members of your Society to honor one whose long, unremitted and successful labors in the work of our profession entitled him to its richest blessings.

May a kind Providence aid in your commendable efforts to honor our distinguished friend,

Respectfully,  
Hiram Corson.

June 11: Tuesday

Went to Court because the litigant of the one side came down last evening to tell me that the Lawyer wanted me to come early this morning. [I] came back at 12 & went again at 1 ½ P.[M.]; was a few minutes too late. Not being there, another case was called.

Have had a great many letters the past two days.

**Editor's note:** Among the letters was an invitation to attend the 1889 Lehigh University commencement from the president of the university, R. A. Lamberton, to which Corson responded as follows:

Robert A. Lamberton, L.L.D

Dear Doctor

For several months my life seemed to be in unusual peril. The anxiety of my niece Mrs. Hovenden, herself an artist and wife of Thomas Hovenden whose creative and artistic genius has given to us two immortal paintings, came prepared to photograph me in my study. When she opened the door, I looked up to see who was there. She quickly said "Now uncle don't move, just hold thyself in that position." The instrument was adjusted, and in a minute more the work was done. It included a third of the office, not the library, but the medicine, or rather the old bottles and packages of Med. Journals, &c. I regretted that they made the background, but perhaps it was not a mistake to have it so, for in a few years a country doctor will be a thing of the past.

Medical men now all aspire to live in villages at least, if not in towns and cities. The photograph may therefore be regarded as a representation of the Country Doctor of half a century ago.

Please accept this picture, my dear friend, of one who is as ever your friend.  
Hiram Corson.

P.S. Many thanks for your kind invitation.

I have just found in copying this, that in the letter sent to him, I prefaced the above letter by a free expression of my thankfulness to him for his annual remembrance of me. H.C.

June 16: Sunday.

Since I wrote on the 11<sup>th</sup>, I have written to Joseph every day and have had two or three letters from him. Have had too a number of letters from friends. The Med. Soc. of our County was to have a meeting yesterday to devise means to help the unfortunate physicians of Johnstown. Six of them were lost and 20 had their homes swept away, Dr. Bennett was told when she was there a week ago. A rain storm prevented me from going to the meeting yesterday.

The Polyclinic People. The friends of Dr. Richard J. Levis wish to honor him by endowing a Free Bed in the Polyclinic Hospital. It will cost 5000 Dollars. I have been requested to aid. Dr. Levis is quite a friend to me, and I must do something, but how much is the question. When Dr. Thomas shall have sent me a list of the subscribers and their amounts subscribed, I can judge better what to do.

Bertha Yocom & son James came here this morning. Bertie Day & Georgie Yocom came yesterday afternoon.

June 17: Monday.

6 A.M. Helen & myself were to go this morning at 6:30 to Spring Mill, then got tickets for New York, where we hoped to be at 9 ½ today. The morning is close; rained

in the night. [It] is very cloudy & threatening, and I have written that we will not go.

Half hour later. Helen has come in Barouche, her husband, Thomas Hovenden, driving. She says she will go whether I do or do not. So I concluded to go. It is now 6 ½ and we must be at Spring Mill at 5:52. I am ready, so will go.

9 o'clock P.M. We were at Columbia Av. at 7 ½. In about 3 minutes we were off, were on the wharf in N. York City at 9 ½. At the corner of 11<sup>th</sup> & Broadway at 10 A.M. Hiram & son had just stepped out of the St. Denis Hotel, but Mrs. Corson rec'd. us. We went into the great Restaurant which is in the House, and while eating, the two men came in. We then went to their rooms and staid till 12 o'clock. Had a very pleasant time. Dr. Eugene is a smart fellow and his father & mother learned and interesting people. Went from there in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Av. Elevated Road to 76<sup>th</sup> Station, then west 1 block to Lexington Avenue, and a few steps south on the West-side of that Av. brot us to 1086, the residence of my former pupil, now Dr. Anna Lukens. There we had dinner again and staid till 12 minutes of 3 P.M., then away to 3<sup>rd</sup> Av. again and south on the Elevated Road to Canal street. Then just as we took the street car there, a furious rain dashed upon the City and down it came in sheets until we got near to the Bound-Brook depot. The Boat took us to the West Jersey depot at once, and at 10' of 4 P.M. we were in the Parlor cars. At 4 we were off for home, [were] at 6 at Columbia Depot, at 6:40 at Sp. Mill, at 7:10 at home. The temp. in N. York at noon was 88 F., but I stood it all pretty well.

June 18: Tuesday.

9 P.M. Slept well. Have been going pretty steadily today; at Norristown, twice at Conshohocken in the forenoon; at Election to vote on the Prohibitory Amendment to the Constitution, at Barren Hill in the afternoon. [Had] threatenings (in the form of very light attacks) of the former spells.

June 19: Wednesday.

10 A.M. Had two or three spells of the heart trouble during the night. Am fearful that the N. York trip was too much for me.

After I rose at 5 ½ this morning, had several spells. Had to inhale Nitrite of Amyl. Have been to Conshohocken and done any number of trifling matters of business.

The "Prohibitory Amendment" failed greatly in yesterday's vote. Expect Dr. Eugene Corson (Prof. Hiram's son) at Conshohocken at 2:13 P.M.

9 P.M. Waited for another train then rec'd. telegram that he could not come today.

June 23: Sunday.

10 P.M. Did a great many things these days, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and was free from spells, or nearly so.

Went to Dr. McKinsy [McKenzie] over Schuylkill to see a woman in 8<sup>th</sup> mo. of gestation [and] vomiting fearfully; has been so many days. Got home at noon and found Dr. Eugene Corson here, also Jawood Lukens & Susan. The last two left soon. [In the] afternoon, took the Doctor to see Helen & family, also Emily Corson & her son George's families.

June 24: Monday.

10 P.M. Took Dr. Eugene Corson to see his aunts and cousins in Norristown, then [went] to the Hospital to see his Aunt Hannah. His Aunt Clara Sholl had gone to Canijahara [Canajoharie], to her son's wedding.

I brot Dr. E. back to Dr. L. W. Read's and left him there to dine, then got home before 1 P.M. After dinner went over to Dr. McKinsy [sic] again and did a good deal of riding to get things ready for mowing and hay-making for the men.

9 P.M. I am fearfully tired. Dr. Eugene Corson came from Norristown with Helen Hovenden. He and my daughter Mary were there to tea. Went to bed at 10:25.

June 25: Tuesday.

Dr. Eugene left for Ogontz, in the carriage with Helen, Ida & Thos. Hovenden, at 8 A.M.

10 P.M. I was fearfully tired last night, did not sleep well. Had a return of the spells. I must avoid doing so much, wearing myself so greatly.

June 26: Wednesday.

Up late, not till 6:15 A.M. Very rainy. We have taken in a good deal of the finest kind of hay the past six days.

Drew a check for \$50, payable to Dr. Beaver for the suffering Johnstown doctors; also gave \$10 for the general fund for all others. Sent check a few days ago, for \$50, for Polyclinic Bed, Free Bed to honor Dr. Levis

Have had several letters from Joseph within a week. Have written to him every day. Had to visit two patients. Have had letters from Prof. Traill Green, Mrs. Louisa Corson, A. W. Corson, Esq., Dr. J. B. Roberts, &c.

Sent letter to Jos. & rec'd. one today.

June 27: Thursday.

I went to the City at 8 o'clock, called first on Robert R. Corson, then went with him to the Providence Life & Trust Co. to see Mr. Foulke, the official who has charge of the Estate left by Follen. Got from him all the notes and the Certificate for 1500 City Sixes.<sup>xxxvi</sup> Then went to see daughter Bertha and took dinner. Reached 9<sup>th</sup> & Green a few minutes before the 1:30 P.M. train left for home. Reached Sp. Mill just after 2 P.M. Went to Consho. with Mary (who had the carriage waiting for me) to see my hay-makers on the Consho. 12 acre lot. Then came up to the Godfrey 4 acres where Matt was cutting grass with the mowing machine; then home before 3 P.M. Have just had supper at 6 P.M.

In Phila. I got \$23.70 from the Beaver Branch Coal Co. of which I have many shares of stock.

June 29: Saturday.

9 P.M. The men have taken in 4 loads of fine timothy hay. Mary and myself went to Norristown the forenoon and I to Conshohocken in the afternoon. Had a great deal of business to do in both places.

Had palpitation on Thursday, Friday and today, but it did not last longer than half an hour either time. Whenever the palp. is recurring, the other trouble simulating Angina



Pectoris, does not occur. The palpitation recurs much oftener than formerly, but does not last a fourth part as long. What the future will bring I know not, but merely hope for the best.

Letter of Condolence from the W.C.T. Union in reference to the death of our son Charles Follen Corson. Sent by the Committee.

At a meeting of the "Plymouth Women's Christian Temperance Union." The following resolutions of sympathy were adopted: Resolved: That it is with deep emotion of sadness and regret we learned of the death of our esteemed attorney Charles Follen Corson, who had labored so earnestly and successfully in the interest of our Union. Resolved: That we greatly deplore the loss of one on whom we could rely with perfect confidence to conduct the business connected with our Temperance work, with faithfulness and ability. Resolved: That we tender to his bereaved father and family our heartfelt sympathy in the great sorrow so suddenly come upon them in the loss of son and brother. While we know that words bring not consolation to grief-stricken hearts, yet we desire to offer this tribute of respect and condolence, hoping we do not intrude upon the sacredness of sorrow. May the Heavenly Father give them comfort, wipe away all tears and remove all woe by helping them realize that he is a God of Love. Emily Pugh, Sallie Huston, Lillie S. Potts, Committee.

My Reply to the Letter from the Women's Christian Temperance Union, to Misses Emily Pugh, Lizzie Huston and Lillie S. Potts, Committee:

Dear Friends. Your kind sympathizing letter has been gratefully received. It is a comfort to those who are distressed, from whatever cause, to receive the evidence that others remember them in their affliction. It is especially grateful to us that you so highly esteem our dear son and brother. He was indeed an honorable, just man and honest counselor to those who entrusted their business to him. Of the many letters of sympathy which we have received not one comes nearer to our hearts than the graceful, earnest one which you have sent. In the earnest hope that your Union may continue its good work and with kind regards for yourselves and the members of the Union, we are gratefully and respectfully

Hiram Corson

Mary Corson.

July 2: Tuesday.

Yesterday I had palpitation for four hours, indeed I have had an attack every day for nearly a week, but they lasted only a few minutes, being stopped by drinking rapidly a tumbler-full of ice water, save in one attack which lasted about half an hour.

Our hay-making has been stopped by rain since Sunday, but we have only "one load out." We have been very much favored, since we began getting in about a dozen loads of well dried hay with very little trouble.

Had a letter from Joseph yesterday. He has his "leave." Will doubtless be here almost before we expect him. He did not expect though to start for a few days after he wrote.

Very dull and rainy this morning, but I went to Norristown, to Bank to get my Bank Book; find I have a balance of \$1023 there. Asked John to get me \$1000 worth, 10 shares, of stock in the New Albertson Trust Company, to be made out of the Bank, and of which John is asked to be President.

Wrote to Mrs. Bruce who wishes to buy 20 feet front and extending through to the next street, that I would take \$8000 for it. John thinks \$6000 would be a big price. Will wait to see what she thinks of the price, and what Joseph will advise when he reaches here.

Susan Lukens was here to spend the day. We expect Frannie Day tomorrow.

9 P.M. It has been raining moderately all day. I have this P.M. been at home reading, carefully putting my medical books, pamphlets in packages & marking them so that I can readily find them.

July 3: Wednesday.

I rec'd. a letter from Mrs. Ellen Wharton, once Miss Ellen Nugent, desiring to see me "on business." She suggested meeting me at the Rail Road Station at Conshohocken. I am afraid of her. She no doubt wants to borrow money.

July 4: Thursday.

I replied today to Mrs. Wharton:

Dear Friend. I rec'd. your letter asking me to name a day and place when & where you could see me on business and suggesting Conshohocken Pa. R. R. Station. I will try to be there at any time you name. Suit yourself and let me know a day or two in advance. Our mail comes twice daily. I would rather not put you to expense to come to Conshohocken and as I shall go to Phila. in a few days, could see you at the Penna. Depot, Market & Broad St. If that will suit you, I will notify you in time.

Respectfully,  
Hiram Corson.

July 5: Friday.

Evening. I have not yet sent the above letter. My nephew Ellwood M. Corson, M.D. was here last evening and he thought it would be as well not to write or take any notice of the letter. It would only be an annoyance.

She is the woman who was accused and tried for the murder of Genl. Gresham [Ketchum] and suspected of poisoning her son, Capt. Wharton and her Husband Col. Wharton, all three of these men belonging to the Regular Army of the United States.

She was acquitted, but guilty. A distant cousin, Mr. Moore Wharton, championed her cause, and afterward married her daughter. It distressed his family. I knew them well. His father, Mr. Clarke Wharton of Phila. lived at the Jesse Spencer place next father-in-law Edward Foulke's family. The people whom they were accustomed to visit "cut them" after Moore, the son, championed Ellen's cause & married the daughter. It was such a blow to his father that he died in a year or two afterwards.

Should anyone read the above, let him keep it to himself.

Bought another Kansas Bond of \$450 at 7 per ct. today of John J. Corson. This makes eleven hundred & fifty from him & 772 from Richardson in a few weeks. Have now just about \$20,000 in Bonds, Bank Stock, City Sixes, County Bonds, Mortgages in Kansas, &c., &c.

July 6: Saturday.

Noon. Have 4 men at the hay. Have been very busy all day thus far, writing before breakfast, engaging the men at different kinds of work after breakfast until the dew dried off. Then went to Conshohocken and did various things. Paid Lumber man a Bill; the Hardware man a Bill; got money from Esq. Smith, Rents; bought some things, [then] home to dinner.

July 7: Sunday.

Went to Hicksite Meeting with Frannie Yocom. [We] are expecting Joseph this evening or tomorrow morning. Quite hot. Went to C. Righter's to see a young woman boarder. Paid me \$5.00. There is a young man with her there, not her husband, a scaley [sic] party.

July 8: Monday.

Susan brought Joseph here from Conshohocken this morning. He arrived there last night before bed time. Made the trip from Spokane Falls in less than five days. He looks as strong and well as I have ever known him to be. 'Tis pleasant to see him again. He will stay two weeks. Had a letter from him this morning from Ft. Sherman.

This is a fearfully hot day.

July 9: Tuesday.

Joseph & myself went to Phila. today. Went to the "Provident Life and Trust Co." He to see Mr. Foulke and get his papers which were in his brother Follen's possession, and I to see about having them to be my Executors and trustees of the monies which I shall leave to Tacie and Mary. Came home at 12:01 P.M. Reached home at 1 P.M. In the afternoon went to see W. Staley and another.

July 12: Friday.

Joseph went to the City yesterday to do business with the "Provident Life and Trust Company." Staid at Jawood Lukens last night, and this morning he and his Sister Susan Lukens will go to Germantown to look at a school for his daughter Mary, then go to see daughter Frannie C. Day.

This is a splendid morning, and I hope we will be able to finish housing our wheat by tomorrow night.

A Norristown man was here last night to see about buying my Main St. property. I ask him \$9000 for 22 feet front running all the way back to LaFayette street 250 feet, or \$25,000 for the whole lot which is 65 feet wide, I think. The office and house are on the part west of the 22 feet.

**Editor's note:** On the next page in the diary is pinned a small card with a picture of "Chief Joseph." It is an advertisement by the Allen & Ginter Company of Richmond, Virginia. It states in the back "Celebrated American Indian Chiefs, one packed in each box of ten cigarettes." Dr. Corson makes the following comments:

This Chief Joseph was a very great man. The clan was quite rich. They were driven from their fine homes by the U. States troops, finally were subdued and sent [by]

them to the Indian Territory. They were very dissatisfied, and after a few years, the Government allowed them to return to their homes and gave them their land in Severalty, the very thing they had asked for before the trouble began. They were good men and many of them with thousands of dollars.

Chief Joseph was considered as able a general as any white officer of the U. S. Army. On the back of the card are the names of other great men of the tribe of "Nez Percés," which term means, "Pierced Noses." They formerly, I suppose, wore rings in their noses. If not rings of gold or silver or copper, rings of some kind. The history of these people is one of cruelty and injustice & robbery on the part of the whites.

[Received a] Card of Invitation to the wedding of Miss Ava Eugenie Lowe, daughter of Prof. T. S. C. Lowe of Norristown, Pa. to C. Henry Stinson of Norristown, to be on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July.

July 16: Tuesday.

9 P.M. I sold a lot of 22 ft. front on Main St., running back 250 feet to LaFayette St., in Norristown today for \$8000. One thousand in cash and \$7000 on Mortgage at 5 per cent. Joseph was with me. It was done at the office of Lawyer Larzalese.

I was requested to send the deed to him so that he could make out one. On looking for it, I could not find it, and it worried me greatly. So Joseph and self went back immediately after dinner, went to the Recorder's Office and to my great comfort found it on record.

In the forenoon, prior to the sale, I attended by subpoena at the office of Register of Wills, as a witness, to testify to the sanity of Mrs. Sexton when she made her Will. Was not examined. Case adjourned.

Jawood Lukens & Susan & Thomas Yocom, my gd. son, were here to tea. After tea, Miss Nina Read & her cousin ----- Roberts came to see Joseph and spent the evening.

My four hay makers took in a deal of good timothy hay. We have more hay this year than we have ever had, although fifteen acres of land less. It has been a most difficult season for the hay and harvest, and yet we have scarcely ever taken the produce in with less of it being spoiled.

July 17: Wednesday.

6 A.M. A beautiful hay-day. After breakfast at 9 o'clock, I am to meet my old acquaintance Mrs. Ellen Wharton, daughter of my old friend George Nugent and Sister to my former pupil of fifty years ago almost, Dr. W. G. Nugent, one of the most graceful, elegant men I ever have known. She wants to meet me on business. The appointment has been made. At 9 o'clock I am to be at the Pa. R. R. Station at Conshohocken. Her history is a fearful one, and I do not like to meet her alone. Joseph, my son, will be with me.

Ten P.M. I met Mrs. Wharton at the Station of Pa. R. R., Conshohocken. She wanted to borrow \$500 for 18 mo. At 10 per cent, pretended she wanted to go to New York to have an operation performed on her limb, [the] limb is somewhat numb from an injury years ago, she says. I did not believe the tale about Dr. Sayres, &c., &c. She talked a good deal and quite a good deal about what would be, or not be horrible. I concluded the interview by telling her that I would consult with Mayor Wm. H. Holstein,

and then write to her. Joseph came there before we adjourned. We had been to Spring Mill before going to Conshohocken and met grand daughter Bertha Day. So we all went to Jawood Lukens' to see daughter Susan, and from there [went] home at 11 ½ A.M.

In the afternoon, Joseph & myself went to Laurel Hill to choose a monument for "Mother." Walked a good deal there. When we got to our lot, found the man trimming it. It looked very neat & pretty. It was sad to see the graves of mother, Carrie, Edward, and five of the Penlllyn family all buried there, when a few years ago, we were all living together happily. We reached home in time for the usual tea.

The men got in six loads of hay today.

July 18: Thursday.

Joseph & self went over to see Mayor Wm. H. Holstein. I wanted to advise with him in relation to Mrs. Wharton. He has been a kind friend to Mrs. Wharton. He was not at home. We came back to Norristown and got my nephew John J. Corson to show us where some of my lots are.

Daughter Bertha Yocom and her sister Susan Lukens, came to spend the day.

Helen Hovenden, her sister Ida Corson & Miss Lovett called in the evening and spent an hour, so did Jawood Lukens & Thomas Yocom.

The Norristowners think I got a good price for my lot, \$8000.

July 20: Saturday.

6 A.M. I had a pretty severe attack yesterday, from a slight over-exertion, and last night two or three light attacks, and this morning one while dressing. Indeed I may say that not a day passes without a few in the 24 hours, and so it has been for weeks. Occasionally, say once a week, I have a palpitation but it rarely lasts over half an hour.

July 25: Thursday.

I have been a good deal engaged for the past week with a patient, an old friend whom nearly 60 years ago I attended at her birth. Have attended her father's family during all that time, no other physician having been called in all that time. In addition to this attendance, I have had much to do in seeing that the title to the lot which I am about to deed is a good one. Though all claims against the property is clear, two of them were still standing open, no satisfaction having been entered. But I have gotten it all clear now, and tomorrow the transaction is to be ended.

Have had a short palpitation almost every day, sometimes more than one, but the ice-water arrests them at once in many of the cases. I am quite free from the other kind of heart trouble now for a few days.

Every day I am engaged nearly all day. I become very weary, but still go on. Am sleeping better.

Rewrote my will yesterday and made my son & three sons-in-law Executors; made the Montgomery Insurance and Safe Deposit Trust Co. Trustees of Tacie and the Provident Life and Trust Co. Trustee of Mary.

Death of Dr. Daniel Whilton [Whilldin] Hand.

I paste here the Proceedings had in St. Paul in reference to my friend Doctor Hand, sent to me by his family. Dr. Hand was a friend of my sons, Edward and Joseph, when they all were scholars at Mr. Samuel Aron's school in Norristown, and sometimes

came home with the boys. I visited him some years ago at St. Paul. He was then doing a large practice. He was too in later years a friend of Follen. He was a good, most unassuming man and a general favorite, a man too of much ability in his profession. I loved him for his many pleasing qualities. Thus one after another of only middle age pass away before me, though no thought of not surviving me occurred to me. I must reply to this remembrance of me by Dr. Hand's family. When he came to Phila. a few years ago he came out with Follen to see us, and when I was at St. Paul, he came and took me from the Hotel to stay at his house. How kind it was, for I was not well. H.C.

Had a new Will signed today, Helen and Ida, my nieces, witnessing it. Susan came before noon to spend the day. Jay Lukens and Thos. Yocom came before tea. They are all on the porch now, entertaining Howard Wood, who has called to see Joseph who expects to leave here for home tomorrow evening.

July 26: Friday.

Near bed time. Joseph & myself went to Norristown after seeing Miss Hellings who was so fearfully burned. Got there just before 10 A.M. and at the office of Mr. Larzalese conveyed 22 feet front of the Main St. property to David Bruce. He had paid me \$1000 and then gave me a Mortgage for \$7000. The lawyer had it entered in the office of the Prothonotary and gave me the receipt.

I then took a Box in the Montgomery Trust and Safe Deposit Co.'s vault in which to keep my papers, for which I paid Five dollars. Deposited there all my Mortgages & Judgments and my Bank Stock, City Sixes, County Bonds, &c., &c. [Came] home before one P.M. Joseph had gone up to see Margaret and bid her good-by, while I was doing some other things, as he will leave for home this evening.

At 6 ½ P.M., Mary and I took Joseph and his trunks to Spring Mill. At 7:01 he left there in the train for Fort Sherman in Idaho. What a long unbroken trip, night and day for nearly 6 days flying on at from forty to fifty miles an hour. He is anxious to get home. I hope he will be fortunate and get along safely.

It has been very pleasant to have him here, and I am so glad that we were enabled to consummate our sale before he left. I also completed my Will. Helen and Ida witnessed it. I have it in mind to leave my niece Hannah Corson, Brother Joseph D. Corson's daughter, a thousand dollars in a codicil.

July 28: Sunday.

Nothing special occurred yesterday. It was though very lonely without Joseph. While he was here there was much doing. Now all is quiet and lonely for Mary & self.

Evening. Jawood & Susan called here at 2 P.M., and Susan told me that Daughter Frannie was confined a few days since and the child still-born. I feel sorry for it, or of it, not specially sorry for the child, but for the mother.

I have read a good deal this P.M. in "The Woman's Story, a work by twenty women." The stories are deeply interesting. Have made much impression on me. I think almost any one would be made better by their perusal. I am sure I see ways in which I can mend, old and fixed as my habits are, and I certainly will in some things which these stories have called to my mind in a way not reached before.

July 29: Monday.

Went to Consho. this morning, then to Barren Hill to meet Dr. Peltz in consultation in the case of William Gilinger; then to Miss Hellings who was so badly burned. At one P.M. went alone down the Wissahickon Park Road to see Frannie Day who was confined a few days since. Child dead. Reached there at 2:40 P.M., left at 3:30. Horse lost a shoe; was detained; did not get to "Aunt Hannah Bacon's till 4 P.M. Left for home at 5:15 P.M.. Reached home, Charles Day with me, at 6:15. [It] rained nearly the whole time we were coming home. I do not feel weary.

July 30: Tuesday.

Rain, rain, rain every day. It is now 9 P.M., an hour since the mail brought a letter from Joseph, written at Chicago. They fell behind time in Pa., did not regain it in Ohio, and a regular cloud-burst almost wrecked them in Indiana. Detained in Chicago many hours, so wrote to me.

Have only visited my burnt patient today, and [have] written some in my Genealogical Record and arranged the papers so as to begin copying it tomorrow for publication.

August 1: Thursday.

6 A.M. The sun was shining brightly when I awoke. It has rained, rained for several days, and I fear it will come on again today. I had a consultation with Dr. Peltz yesterday, visited, too, my burnt patient in the forenoon. In the afternoon went to Conshohocken and did a number of things.

Have had a short attack of palp. every day this week, sometimes I arrested it with a rapid drink of ice water; twice [I] could not get it, and yet it only lasted from 15 to 30 minutes.

August 9: Friday.

Many things have happened since I last wrote. There have been many murders and suicides, thefts & embezzlements reported in the papers. But with all that, I have gotten well. My new heart trouble has left me and that too without lying in bed, but on the contrary, while in the every day active life which I lead, and in this case the week was one of unusual work with me. The poor dear friend who was so horribly burned needed great attention, and beside that I did many, many things, and yesterday while on my visit to her at 8 o'clock, I found her dying. She was still alive at 5 P.M.

Yesterday too, I went to Phila., and I settled some matters with the "Provident Life and Trust Co." and did many other matters, reaching home at 5 ½ P.M.

The above disposes of what happened before this morning during [the] last 8 days.

This Friday, I am up at A.M. and learned from a letter of Joseph's rec'd. last evening, that he was still further detained by bridges being down, from the flood, and that there was a great Fire in Spokane which has almost destroyed that city. I will wait for information from Joseph.

Samuel Pugh Dead. [Was] buried today at Radnor Friends Meeting.

Lizzie Hellings died last night. She was awfully burned by the upsetting of a lighted Coal Oil lamp firing her clothes, nearly 3 weeks ago. She was a fine woman and

a great friend of mine. I have real regret that she suffered so much. Joseph was with me in the first week of treatment.

August 13: Tuesday.

5 P.M. I went to Phila. in the 8 A.M. train today. Was at the Provident Life and Trust Company before 9. After doing the needed work with Mr. Foulke, I took a Street car at 4<sup>th</sup> & Arch for Laurel Hill. Saw the stone cutter at the yard opposite. Went with him to see some tombs. Then I went alone to our lot, to see the graves of "Mother," Edward & Carrie and all the Father-in-law, Mother-in-law & Aunts graves. Took the cars again to Manayunk, then the train to Spring Mill. Mary was there to meet me, with Dexter and a carriage. [Was] home by one P.M.

9 ½ P.M. This has been a very pleasant day. In the forenoon I did but little save see to the work being done about the yards, the apples gotten up, &c.

At 2 P.M. attended the funeral of Lizzie Hellings who was so fatally burned. The minister prayed and preached, and read from the Bible, and I fortunately did not hear a word of it. It was much pleasanter to be quiet and remember what a good woman the deceased had been, and how devoted she was to me as a physician and friend, than to hear him go over the old routine, and his cold and formal prayer.

Just before 9 o'clock P.M., Dr. John S. Shrawder came to the door. Poor fellow! He looked so poor that at first I did not know him. He talked away until I became impatient to know what he wanted. At last it came. [He] wanted \$15 for a month or six weeks. I at once [gave it to him] after hearing his reasons for wanting it, namely, that he had invented a machine for closing doors noiselessly. He wanted to give me a note, but as I knew it would never be paid, I said, "no, never mind that." So he went his way. He is a very ingenious man, but not a single one of his many inventions has yielded him anything, all have been expensive.

August 15: Thursday.

Charles Foulke, son of Richard Foulke, came here today. Mary brought him up from Spring Mill. He will be 17 years old next April. He is a nice looking boy. I think he ought to study medicine. He can do better in that way, than by getting a place as a clerk.

They fear the expense. Indeed have not a dollar to let him have. I will try to have the thing carried into effect. But he should study Latin, must do it now to get into the University.

Have been about home all day. A very unusual thing. Sallie Beaver, née Comfort, came in to see me today.

I have had Matt doing many jobs that needed attention.

August 18: Sunday.

Went early this morning, Mary along with me, to Norristown to see John J. Corson and ask him not to send a certain paper for Joseph to sign until I return from Atlantic City, where I expect to go tomorrow for only a single day.

This P.M. until 4 o'clock I wrote an account of my life, 20 pages, to Dr. W. Stump Forwood of Darlington, Maryland, President of the Harford Co. Historical Society, by his request. Expected John J. Corson (my nephew) & his wife at that hour.



They did not come till six P.M. We had tea. After tea Dr. Ellwood, my nephew, and his sister Mrs. Hovenden came. It is now 9 o'clock & we are ready for bed.

August 19: Monday.

At 6 ½ A.M. Helen (my niece) & myself started for Sp. Mill, took the cars at 7:25 to Broad St. Station; went from there in the Company's coach to Market St. Ferry, across to Camden, and off to Atlantic City. Fare only \$1.95 for round trip. Went on well in the Parlor Car of the long train, which got so hot that we were delayed twice when nearly down, so that we did not reach there till nearly eleven o'clock. Found Bertha & child waiting for us. We went down to the board-walk, which was covered by thousands of people, and in the surf were crowds along the whole line. Bertha Jr. and Helen went in to swim. At one P.M. we all went back to Bertha's cottage and had a good dinner. The cottage is near to the inlet.

After dinner we all went down to the board-walk, and saw the sights, the venders of the hundred kinds of wares and curiosities, but how could we notice them when the "Merry-go-rounds" and the Toboggan slide were circling and sliding, the first so gracefully carrying its splendid horses and its interesting girls & boys, the latter gliding from its dizzy height with terrific velocity carrying its full cars of human beings out over the Sea and then down and round and round to the starting place. At 4, we were after some difficulty enabled to get a seat in the train for home. At the Broad St. Station we had not a moment to spare, whirled away for Sp. Mill, where Matt and the carriage and old Dexter, the good old horse, awaited us and by 8 o'clock had us home. It was a hard day but I scarcely felt weary. How strange when a few weeks since I was so weak.

August 20: Tuesday.

Did a number of things in the forenoon. At 2:50, by appointment, met Mayor Wm. H. Holstein at the Hospital for the Insane. Miss Dr. Bennett took us through the various interesting places. I had by request of the Holstein agreed to accompany them and introduce them to Dr. Bennett. There were lots of visitors there but we went by ourselves, the others in one big group.

It was a pretty long travel through the wards. My Niece Hannah Corson, the supervisor, was with us part of the time. Got home to supper and did not feel very weary.

August 21: Wednesday.

Went to Conshohocken, then to Norristown to arrange some money matters with Tacie. Got back at noon. Susan was here to pay me some interest, and all of a sudden cried out, Oh Father, I forgot to tell thee that thy two houses on Elm St., Consho. were burned this morning. She had forgotten it.

After dinner I went to Norristown to see if my insurance taxes had been paid. Found [them] all right. My insurance was only \$1500.

After returning from Norristown at 4 P.M., was requested to see a City child at W. Livezey's house. Told the mother, "I don't practice," but she had Dr. Leedom & her own Phila. doctor and was so distressed that I visited it. It was then nearly dark, but Mary and her woman wanted to go to Consho. & so took them. Got back before 9 P.M. A very busy day it was. Have not yet seen my burnt houses.

Sent Photo to Dr. W. Stump Forwood of Darlington, Maryland. Am getting many letters every day, one from Joseph & one from Dr. Mary Willits this evening.

August 25: Sunday.

Morning, 7 o'clock. Since Wednesday I have been very busy at many matters. On yesterday, Susan & myself went at 1:30 P.M. by the cars from Conshohocken to Laurel Hill, again to see about the monument for Mother. I prefer the white Manchester Marble. Susan [is] rather inclined to the Granite. I could have the best Italian marble put up "right away," but it disintegrates more quickly than the Manchester. The granite is lasting but I don't like the dark color. Just before we left Consho., I got palp., but said nothing to Susan. Had it all the way down, all the time I was at the Cemetery, and till I got back to Manayunk. [It] went off there. Got home without further palpitation at 5 P.M.

My Nephew Edward Foulke, who is in the office of the Pa. R. R. at Washington, arrived directly from Sp. Mill, whither Mary had gone for him. In a few minutes I was again attacked with palp., which lasted me till after nine o'clock P.M.

Dr. Allis & wife were here in the evening a short time, and Jawood & Susan Lukens & Thomas Yocom were here to tea & spent the evening

August 26: Monday.

I slept pretty well and am all right this morning. [Have] many letters to write. 9 A.M. Have written six letters. 10 o'clock less 20 minutes I have been attacked by palpitation again. 12 o'clock, while at dinner just now, it went off. I have been quite well since, but now (4 P.M.), it has attacked me. 8 P.M. The palp. cont'd. until just now, 4 hours. 9 P.M. Have done but little of any thing today, was waiting to have Dr. Allis come & go with me to see a child from the City, which he desired to see with me.

August 27: Tuesday.

Was very busy in the forenoon with matters at home. In the P.M. at 1 ½, left for Consho., taking Aunt Harriet & daughter Mary, and at Jawood's picking up Susan and taking all of them to the cars. I had arranged with Dr. O. H. Allis & wife who are boarding near to Spring Mill, to go today to Valley Forge and see the Head Quarters occupied by Washington in the winter of 1778. At 2:13, the cars came & brought our friends and their two children. We were soon at Valley Forge and had an interesting time, seeing all the old swords & guns & other things of Revolutionary Days. At 4:42 we took the cars again & before six P.M. were at home.

August 28: Wednesday.

Was about home nearly all day, doing some needed matters. Weather [is] very cool. At 20 min. before 5 P.M., was struck with palp. Took some Paregoric & Tinct. Gentian. Ate supper very well, read some in Herbert Spencer's -----, but it still batters away.

August 29: Thursday.

6 ½ A.M. Palp. cont'd. the whole night. I tried drinking ice water several times

without avail. Took 1/8 gr. sulph. morph. towards morning. Slept now & then through the night.

Frannie Yocom came yesterday to stay with me while Mary goes home with Aunt Harriet to stay a week or more.

August 30: Friday.

This P.M. Doctor Allis went with me to Norristown to see the Hospital. Dr. Chase took us through the Infirmary, the Dining Rooms, Wards, &c. We saw the patients go to supper, 500 males in the one dining room and 500 females in the other one. And how orderly it all was, and how clean and enticing the table utensils and the food.

I was pretty weary when evening came.

August 31: Saturday.

I went to Gwynnedd [sic], taking gd. dgt. Frannie Yocom with me, to get Hannah Myers to sign a paper asking that John J. Corson be appointed Trustee in place of Follen, in the Ann White Estate. From there went to Ft. Washington to get Isaac White to sign it. He was at work, so left it for him to sign, or rather had left it with Esq. Jenkins, and asked Mrs. White to send Isaac up to sign it. Got home at 1 P.M. A very tiresome ride, the roads being stony. It was about 14 miles. Staid at home in the afternoon

September 1: Sunday.

How strange it seems that the summer is over. It has been so cool and so rainy that I have not changed my clothes, save that I wore a straw hat.

John J. Corson & seven children came about 10 o'clock. Howard Wood's five children, some nearly grown up, came at nearly the same time. All went away before noon. In the afternoon the Wood children came again.

I did very little today, save in reading. Am taking more rest now than almost ever before, and yet not much more.

September 2: Monday.

At 8 ½ o'clock was a victim to palp. I went to Norristown on business, got home at noon, ate dinner and then went to bed with my clothes on. Got asleep, awoke at 1 ½ P.M. and palp. was gone.

Rode to Broad Axe Tavern after dinner to see a patient, Hannah Strout. [I] did not feel well, so left some medicine at the Toll Gate and came home. Gd. daughter Frannie Yocom was with me.

September 3: Tuesday.

Had many letters yesterday & today, and wrote a good many. Have been busy at many things.

Matt sells apples three times a week at Consho., and has brot home \$20.42, besides making three barrels of cider already.

September 5: Thursday.

A great day in Montgomery & Bucks Counties. Years ago the First Presbyterian

Church this side of the Delaware River was established at Hartville, Bucks Co., Pa. It was a log affair, but out of it, it is trumpeted now, grew Princeton College.

The President, Harrison, is a Presbyterian and as John Wannamaker is a noted man in that denomination, he and the President were invited to the Anniversary Ceremonies. Today they began their procession at Jenkintown, and surrounded by thousands of the County folks wended there triumphant to Moore Town, Willow Grove, Hatboro and finally to Hartville. Thousands on thousands of people from far and near preceded and followed them. The roads were dusty and rough, but to see the President was stimulus enough to make them forget all inconveniences. It was not, though, a hurraing procession, but a decent quiet ride on the part of the notables, and a most orderly following by their admirers.

September 10: Tuesday.

For two days I have been somewhat indisposed. My heart has troubled me with occasional palpitations, &c., and I have [a] poor appetite. Nevertheless, I have been going about actively.

Rec'd. a letter from Dr. Mary Willits two days ago that she and Dr. Lincoln would be to see me tomorrow, by my invitation, if the weather should prove to be good. It does not suit me, so I have been compelled to propose a postponement of the visit for a few days.

Have been receiving many letters and [been] writing many lately.

Ada, Joseph's wife & their eldest child Mary are on their way to see us.

September 11: Wednesday.

Was struck with palp. this minute, 20 min. of eight A.M. 15' of 8, palp. [was] gone. I have had two short palps. of only two or three minutes and one of an hour within the last week.

Last night I went to bed at 9 P.M., slept well till 1 ½ A.M. After that time was troubled with pain in left shoulder and at 3 ½ A.M. with sharp pain through the fleshy part of the forearm. They were intensely sharp, coming and going with great rapidity and suffering. Dreamed a great deal, dreamed that Follen was speaking in Court. He looked very well and spoke earnestly. How strange are dreams!! Always an evidence of only partial sleep; when in deep sleep, no dreams occur.

Yesterday I cut this slip from The Phila. Press.

I remember the incident very well. The narrator of the event, W. S. H., Winfield Scott Harry, son of Benjamin, was too young at that time to witness the affair I think, perhaps not, when young such an event would make a deep impression. The true story is as follows: Davis McCann, Isaac Vaughan, and two other men were playing cards during nearly all the day, in the small stable & hay house at the "Locks." The river had cont'd. to rise and the ice was sweeping down in broken masses. The men cont'd. to play until at last they saw that the building was surrounded by the icy flood. This was in the afternoon. Then they gave signal of distress, but no one felt like going to them as the danger was extreme. By evening the high grounds were occupied by the Conshohocken people 7 region around, looking anxiously to see what would happen. Lumbar & even large boats were drifting past and finally the stable, at about 10 o'clock of a beautiful but cold clear starlight night, moved off. The fence dividing the properties of David Harry

and Isaac Jones was but one or two hundred yards below, and there was already lodged against the trees along the fence, a large coal-boat. Against these trees and the boat, the small hay house and stable lodged. I was with the lookers-on, who crowded together about where the Banks now are. All night the poor fellows were imprisoned in their house, but without any desire to play cards then. By morning the river had fallen somewhat and Benjamin Harry, and I think some one with him, took them off. Isaac Vaughan was not cured of his drinking habits by the event. He was a kind, good man in his family, and but for the vile habit of drunkenness was a gentleman. I knew all the four men, but forget who the other two were.

Immense crowds are expected to be at Gettysburgh today. My Nephew Dr. E. M. Corson has gone. My friend Col. Theo. W. Bean will deliver the Oration at the monument erected by [the] Zook Post.

September 12: Thursday.

The Great Flood at Atlantic City which began Sept. 10 has been a fearful one. The city was cut off from the world for several days, no Telegraphic Communication even. My grand daughter Frannie Yocom, who has been with [us] nearly two weeks, seems greatly concerned about her folks at home. But I tell her that they are on Atlantic Avenue, and as the water has as yet scarcely reached there, she need not be alarmed. My daughter Frannie Day is also there, but she also is close to her sister Bertha, and as she is on the well elevated "Vermont House," there is no fear of her being hurt. The wind has been fearful for several days, and rain has been steady too but not heavy. It is still, [at] 6 P.M., at it moderately with moderate wind from the East.

September 13: Friday.

Ada & daughter arrived today from Fort Sherman. Came to Jawood Lukens'.

September 14: Saturday.

Rain still coming. Took Mary to Conshohocken to see Ada & Mary. Found them looking well after their long ride of 3000 miles in a little over five days of time. The accommodations on the Northern Pacific line are very fine.

September 15: Sunday.

Communication has at last been had with the terrified people of Atlantic City. No description can be given of the doings of the storm that could give an idea of it, so I have pinned here the "Press" account. There will doubtless be many theories of its origin, so I will pin one on here, which has come to my notice.

September 19: Thursday.

Have rec'd. a letter from Frannie today. The water was three feet deep around Bertha's house. I should have said James Yocom's house perhaps, so as to conform to custom. And even yesterday, although it had greatly subsided, it was still so much on the street as to keep Bertha & herself apart.

It was a sad blow to the people who entertain boarders, for as soon as the R. Roads could carry them, nearly all the boarders left at once.

The Therm. was 47° F. this morning, which made us shiver after such a hot, murky spell.

Frannie Yocom, my gd. daughter wrote to me today that she was about to attend lectures at the Woman's College, Medical, this winter, to graduate in 4 years. She seems to be very desirous to do it, and anxious that I approve her course. I cannot say her nay, though I wish she had left it a little longer, inasmuch as it will interfere with her matrimonial chances.

September 24: Tuesday.

Several days have passed, nearly all rainy, since [my] last entry. Have had letters from many quarters. One from Prof. Traill Green today; one from Prof. E. A. Wood yesterday with a short Poem, which I will paste here; several others.

Have had a palpitation for a very short time, longest half an hour, nearly every day. Do not feel strong, but am active and busy,

Was at the Montgomery Cemetery with Mary yesterday. Saw the resting place of William, my brother, Follen, and other friends. It is sad to think that they have been taken from us.

Went to see gd. daughter Mary Carter Corson & her mother at Jawood Lukens' today. Mary will go to her school in Germantown, Phila. Co. tomorrow.

[Received a] letter from Joseph Corson Read, my nephew, this morning.

October 4: Friday.

Have not written since Sep. 24<sup>th</sup>, two days after Ada & her daughter came here. They had been nearly two days and nights at Jawood Lukens' before coming here. Since that time she was mostly at Jawood's until Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, engaged she and Susan, my daughter, getting Mary Carter Corson ready for her school. Since Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, she has been here.

Yesterday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Thursday, Ada and I went to Phila. to see Dr. Harrison Allen about some affection in the pharynx, or throat, or trachea. We then parted, she to go to the Dentist, I to see Dr. Charles H. Thomas; staid but a few minutes; then to see Emeritus Professor Dr. Henry H. Smith, 18<sup>th</sup> & Spruce; then to Wannamaker's, bought hat, &c.; then to Gemrich's, bought instruments; then to Provident Life & Trust Co.; then met Ada; then home by 4 P.M.

In the evening at 6 o'clock, we, Ada, Mary Corson my daughter & myself went to Hovenden's to tea. Ida, too, was there, and Jawood Lukens and Susan, my daughter.

October 5: Saturday.

10 P.M. Went to Norristown, taking Ada with me. Collected some rents & interest. Then went to the Cemetery to the graves of Brother William and my son Follen. All around them are gathered our deceased friends. As I went around there was scarcely a tomb stone of the hundreds on which the name was not that of a friend or acquaintance of mine, many of them not half so old as I am when they died. I came away from the grave of Follen feeling sad indeed. Stopped to see John J. Corson, my nephew, on business. Reached home at noon.

Afternoon, at 2 P.M., went to Radnor Station Pa. R. Road to see when I could go to & return from West Chester. From Consho., on my return, went direct to see a patient at Barren Hill, then home. After tea took my old friend Moses Auge, who has been with

us a day & night, to the Rail Road Station, Spring Mill. In all, I have ridden just about 25 miles today and am not a bit weary.

October 6: Sunday.

Mary and I were alone. I read & wrote all day and till 9 P.M. (save an hour to see a patient), preparing for my talk to be had to [the] West Chester Medical Society on Tuesday, my 86<sup>th</sup> birthday.

October 7: Monday.

My Nephew's Death, [the] Death of Joseph Corson Read, son of my Sister Sarah Corson Read, wife of Thomas Read, and brother of Dr. Lewis Wernwag Read, Hannah Shultz, Sarah Jones and Mary Roberts of Norristown.

On Friday evening the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, a telegram came to Lewis that "Joseph is dead." Yesterday Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>, my niece Helen Hovenden told me. She had heard that he died on one day and was buried the next day.

He has lived at Fernandina, Florida, for several years, ten or 15 at least, engaged in the "Lumber Business." Last summer a year ago, 1888, his family were at Bethlehem, Pa. He staid at his home. Yellow Fever prevailed at Jacksonville fearfully and fatally, and at Fernandina to considerable extent, and he had an attack. About a month ago, my nephew Thomas Adamson, Consul General at Panama, where the Yellow Fever prevails to great degree, sent me a treatise on the treatment of it by Dr. Nelson. The treatment of Dr. N. pleased me and I sent it to Joseph. On Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> he wrote to me,

"My Dear Uncle Hiram, I was pleased to receive your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. The pamphlet on Yellow Fever at Panama by Dr. Nelson was also received. I read it with considerable interest, but think the author not very well up in treatment of Yellow Fever, considering the advantages he has had. I have loaned it to one of the physicians here. The Fernandina Report which was a full and complete one of the Epidemic was not printed, as ordered and promised, or I should sent it to you, as some of our physicians are experts in Yellow Fever.

Mirna (his wife) and Daisy (their daughter) were highly pleased last autumn with the visit you and Follen paid them at Bethlehem. Daisy frequently referred to it, and as she was visiting at her grandparents when the terrible news arrived of Follen's death, she did not hear of it. Some days after her return she spoke of Follen, and when her mother told her of the accident, she was terribly distressed.

Mirna and the children join me in kindest regards to you and Cousin Mary.

Truly Yours,

Joseph C. Read."

And now our intercourse has ceased for ever and for ever. How the last two years have stripped me, "Mother," Follen and now Joseph C. Read. But we must yield to the inevitable. How good they all were. Peace be to them ever more.

9 P.M. I went early to Conshohocken on business. After dinner took Mary with me to the "Broad Axe," from there to Norristown. Stopped at Tacie's, at Ellwood's, at Margaret's, at Mary Roberts. Came home by 5 P.M.

A cold wave came today, a sharp, cold wind, with Therm. 46 F.

There also came by mail letters from Ada, and Dr. Anna Lukens. By mail rec'd. from my friend Dr. E. A. Wood,

“Dear Dr. Corson, I send you this that you may if you choose, while  
away an idle hour and think of the writer. When done with it, keep, destroy or  
give, as thee it seemeth best. Your friend.  
E. A. Wood.”

A Cantata,  
Lady Estmere.  
Words by Dr. E. A. Wood,  
Music by Prof. Kellar

Dramatis Personæ

Nightingale -----Soprano  
Grief -----Alto  
Nature -----Tenor  
Hope -----Baritone  
Death -----Bass.

Recitative - Nature

While the Azoic age swept on,  
With Life's crude embryo in its womb,  
Until the first pale cell was born,  
There was no life, no death, no tomb.  
Next came the Ages vast, which ran  
From primal cell to primal man,  
His glorious advent marked the morn.  
When Time first struck a jubilee,  
The glad salute to earth's first-born,  
The Masterpiece of Deity.

Aria – Death

When Adam took his place,  
As first-born of his race,  
Glad shouts broke out on high  
And music shook the sky.  
Glad shouts like sounding years  
Re-echoed 'mong the spheres,  
From Orion to Pleiades,  
From Polar Star to southern seas,  
The loud resounding anthems rise,  
Along the gamut of the skies,  
'Till sun and stars exultant sang  
“Peace on the earth, good will to man!”

Chorus of Angels



From Orion to Pleiades, &c.-.

Death – Recitative

When all the morning Stars  
Sang with the sons of God,  
Death's strong, red steed fell down  
In terror and amaze,  
And Death himself grew cold with fear.  
When silence reigned again on high  
Death's steed was blanched as white as snow,  
And Death since rides a pale horse.

Aria – Nightingale

Who rides so late  
On steed so pale?  
Who seeks the Castle gate?  
Rid'st thou in love or hate?  
In robe or mail?  
Who is it rides so late?  
Fast barred the Castle gate,  
Thy knock will not avail,  
Thy arrand there will fail.  
Who rides so late  
To Castle gate?

Chorus of Spirits.

Who rides so late, &c.

Recitative – Death

I'm Death, and this my steed;  
Thy song hath stayed our ride.  
You Castle gray that stands,  
Like sentinel on guard,  
Must ope its gates to me.  
Within its very central hall,  
The inner Chamber of the Court,  
Where rests the angel of the ark,  
I'll take my stand in spite of bars.  
This night fair Lady Estmere dies.  
Her babe, just born, cries on her breast,  
Through it I'll strike her to the heart.  
Thy song detained me one brief hour.  
While she has felt the thrilling glow  
Of mother for her first born babe,  
Thus making life a sweeter joy,  
And death a harder, keener pang.  
I hear her child appeal to God,

To spare her life, to love and guard  
The child that nestles in her arms.  
Her grief would melt a heart of stone.  
Sir Estmere weeps at her despair.  
The King may weep, the lady die  
For all must weep and all must die.  
But what is grief to me  
Merry Death and this my steed?  
O hasten to fair Estmere's side  
Thou and thy song hath stayed  
Her flight to Paradise.  
She dies with the hour  
I'm Death and this my steed.

Nightingale – Aria

Stay Death Oh stay! I'll sing to thee,  
I'll sing to thee all night,  
And I'll warble all the day;  
New songs I'll make,  
Fresh corals wake,  
If thou wilt only stay,  
Stay O! Death I'll sing to thee.

Aria – Nightingdale

Let thy tired steed rest, lie down  
Beneath the green wood trees,  
And let me thy worn senses drown  
With midnight melody.  
A bed upon the clover heath,  
It's softer than the couch of death.  
Stay monster stay! O grim despair!  
He's gone! He's gone! Death's gone!  
That dying mother bars my threat,  
Her waiting cry, her touching prayer  
Would drown the peal of loudest note!  
Woe, woe is me. Death's gone.

Chorus of Spirits

Around the Castle turrets sweep  
The birds of ill Omen,  
The winds around the gable weep  
And ghosts stalk in the glen,  
The Owlet on the heath  
Despairing hoots in child affright,  
The dogs keep howling at the sprite  
That haunts the house of death.

Chant

Come to the house of woe tonight,  
Come to the hall of death,  
And gaze upon a dead, pale face  
Turned to the weeping stars,

Aria – Grief

The shadows darken on a bier,  
A burning Censor sadly swings,  
Where weeping angels guard the dead  
With folding arms and drooping wings.  
Ah! Gentle mother where art thou?  
Hushed is thy voice, and cold thy hand,  
I weep to feel no more thy touch,  
Come back, come back from shadow land!

Aria – Nature

No knight ever led in the van,  
No hero or leader of man,  
W'er conquered on the land or the sea,  
But sprang from a mother as brave.  
A nerve from the mother's true heart  
Will stretch o'er the land and the sea.  
'Though myriads of leagues may part,  
At the end of that nerve will be  
Her child! Her truant, child astray!

Aria – Nightingale

Hark! Above the Castle dome  
Sweet music bursts from far!  
List! I hear the mother's voice,  
Like echo from a star.  
Death no more shall stay her song,  
No grief shall choke her voice,  
Forever on the hills of joy,  
She'll wander and rejoice.

Quartette – Soprano, Alto, Tenor & Baritone

Hark, above the Castle dome!  
Sweet music bursts from far!  
List! We hear the mother's voice  
Like echo from a star!

Chorus of Angels

Glory in the highest, Glory!

Peace on Earth, good will to man!  
Finale

October 8: Tuesday.

9 P.M. This is my 86<sup>th</sup> Birth-day. Today I am 85 years old. At 9 A.M. I left home with Mary, she to stay with her Sister Susan Lukens, I to go on to Radnor Station on Pa. R. Road, then in the cars to West Chester to meet the Co. Med. Soc. and address the members on the propriety of separating Superintendents of Hospitals for Insane from all work but the medical care of the patients. As we went to Conshohocken we met daughter Susan coming to our house with a birth-day present for me. She consented to go with me, so [she] turned about and went with us. Then at 10:52 A.M., we took the cars at Radnor Station, Mary staying at her house. At West Chester, Dr. Jacob Price met us with his carriage and drove through the town to show us the best streets, and point out the homes of their best men, then to his own home, a fine farm of 86 acres, in the borough. Mrs. Price was at home and we were well entertained. After dinner Dr. Price took me to the Mansion House where in a parlor the Society convened at 2 P.M. and the "regular business was postponed to hear the paper of Dr. Corson." I, remaining seated, told them that I had no "paper" but merely desired to talk with them and have their advice in relation to "the propriety of having superintendents of Hospitals for the Insane separated from all work but the medical care of the Insane, and also to have women physicians for the women Insane in all our State hospitals." For an hour and a half I talked to them in a conversational way, giving a history of the organization of all the hospitals, and the great superiority of the Norristown hospital which is managed by Trustees, over the others, all of which are managed by Superintendents. And I spoke to them too of the importance of having women physicians, as at Norristown Hospital, for the women Insane.

They seemed to be intensely interested. And when I was through, passed a resolution expressing their conviction that of the importance of both reforms as advocated by me. The question was taken by rising, and was unanimous. I was gratified to have the vote. During all the time I was speaking, I had the palpitation of the heart upon me. It had begun while in Dr. Price's carriage, when going to the Mansion House. At 5 P.M., Susan & Mrs. Price, who had come shortly before, joined me and we, Susan and I, took the cars for home. I reached here at 7:15, palp. still on me and it lasted till 10 P.M., in all 8 hours.

October 9: Wednesday.

Today I brot Dr. Mary Willits of 1313 Green St., Phila. from Spring Mill to dine with us. The appointment was made several days ago, and afterward [she] wrote an article for the New York Medical Journal, headed, "A visit to Dr. Hiram Corson."

After we dined, Susan came up at 2 P.M. and we had quite a pleasant time. At 4 P.M. Susan took Dr. Willits with her to Conshohocken to take the 4:44 train for home. I was pretty weary, but did not rest, read the newspapers [I] had not read yesterday, wrote letters, &c.

October 10: Thursday.

10 P.M. Went to Conshohocken to bring Ada home with me. After dinner, took her to the Eastern Hospital at Norristown. There are about 1700 patients. Sexes nearly equal. Called on my niece Hannah Corson who is Supervisor of the female department, who took us through the whole of the department for females.

Joseph had desired that his wife should visit it before coming home to Ft. Sherman. Ada was amazed and greatly gratified, so complete, almost grand was everything, and so adapted to securing comfort and recovery to the patients, where recovery is possible. Home by 5 P.M.

October 14: Monday,

Since last writing, I have been busy at many things, reading journals and other books, writing letters, &c. Frannie came up on Saturday with her son Charley; went home yesterday at 4 P.M.

Ada also left us yesterday at the same time to spend a few days with Susan. I wrote letters last night to Prof. H. C. Wood, Phila. and E. A. Wood, M.D., Pittsburgh, in reply to pamphlets of their own sent to me.

This morning rec'd. invitation to the Meeting and Lunch of the Forestry Association, on Wednesday next. I am one of the Executive Committee. Replied to the letter and wrote one to daughter Bertha in reply to hers about the chickens, eleven fine Brachmas, which she sent from Atlantic City on Friday last (Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>).

Wrote a new Will on Sunday and today had it signed, and witnessed by my two nieces, Helen Hovenden and her sister Ida Corson, Brother George Corson's children.

October 15: Tuesday.

Attended the funeral of the widow of Norton Albertson this afternoon. She died suddenly at Yonkers, N. York, last Friday. Not yet 4 mos. Norton died. Four months ago both were in good health. How my friends, much younger than myself are disappearing from the Earth.

Dr. Carrol [Carroll] Corson married. He lives at Bismarck and was married last week to [empty space]. I was invited to the wedding. This forenoon I called on them at his mother's. Took Ida with me. Had a pleasant visit.

October 16: Wednesday.

The National Forestry Association met last evening and had addresses by several distinguished men at the Music Hall, Phila. Today I attended as an invited guest, and Representative from Montgomery County Forestry Association. The meeting was furnished [with] interesting Reports from many States during the forenoon. At one P.M. a reception was given us at the Aldine Hotel, Chestnut St. above 19<sup>th</sup>. It was a pleasant affair. I staid but a short time at the afternoon meeting. These meetings were held in Horticultural Hall.

October 17: Thursday.

I went to Phila. again, but staid at the meeting less than an hour. My hearing is so dull, and the speakers not readily heard, so left. Went to see Robert Corson, collected my interest on the \$2600 City Sixes and did other matters, reaching home at 1 ½ P.M.

Death of Ex Governor, General Hartranft.

Today at noon the announcement came to the Norristown people of the death of their distinguished citizen. It was a shock to many for few have heard of his illness. He will be buried on Monday Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> to meet at the Court-House at 2 P.M., to proceed to Montgomery Cemetery.

October 21: Monday.

9 P.M. At noon I took Mary to Norristown to General Hartranft's funeral. We reached John J. Corson's office at 2 o'clock after having seen the corpse, which "lay in state" in the Court-House from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. The crowd around the Court House and in the streets near to it was wonderful for Norristown. At 2 P.M. the long procession four deep which was wending its way into the Court-House was suddenly shut out as the clock struck the hour of two. Thousands did not get in to see him. The Main street from Swede almost to the General's residence a mile away, was packed on both pavements. Every available window and door full of heads. Before four o'clock, about 3 ½ P.M., the procession came along. First a carriage containing the Minister, Rev'd. --- and Dr. Lewis W. Read, my nephew, followed by General Snowden at the head of a procession, which will be described by the Reporters better than I can do it.

November 12: Tuesday.

The Reception at the House of Dr. Joseph Parrish at Burlington, N.J., Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1889, on the anniversary of his 70<sup>th</sup> birth day.

At one minute before 9 A.M. the cars left Norristown, with Miss Dr. Alice Bennett aboard and I joined her at Conshohocken depot a few minutes later. When we reached Phila., we went into the great store of John Wannamaker to see the decorations which had been placed there in view of the Pan-American Delegates, whose visit took place yesterday. It was gorgeous, and the display of American fabrics quite amazing. From there we took cars to the foot of Market St., then across to Camden and on to Burlington where we arrived at 11 ½ A.M. Several persons from Phila. had by this time joined us, and we made our way to Dr. Parrish's house only two squares away.

I was invited to head the list of names of those present, and did it.

At one P.M., the reading of papers on Inebriety filled pretty copiously with eulogies of the work of Dr. Parrish on that subject as well as praise of him as a man began & cont'd. for an hour and a half, then a few old friends were called on for speeches, and I happened to be the second or third one. I was almost dazed by the call but responded and fortunately to my satisfaction. At 3 P.M. we had a lunch and at 3:30 P.M. were in the cars for our return. There were a number of physicians, ministers and ladies, in all about 70 or more.

I reached home at 6 ½ P.M., after calling a few minutes to see a patient for Dr. Highley. When [I] reached home, I found that my friend Dr. Forwood had left for home, my gd. daughter Frannie Yocom going with him to Philad. I hope he got home safely that day. I was very well all day and enjoyed the visit very much.

Dr. Alice Bennett is a pleasant companion for a trip of that kind. It was a lovely day too, a fortunate thing, as it rains nearly every day. I was the oldest person there but not the most feeble by any means.

November 13: Wednesday.

Dr. Alice Bennett having her portrait taken today by Thomas Hovenden, the artist, my niece's husband. The day so cloudy and rainy that he could do nothing more than sketch the outline. In the evening, Dr. Bennett came here to supper with Mary and myself. We had a pleasant evening, and she remained all night. She is a wonderful little woman, managing a hospital with more than 750 insane females, and that without any mechanical appliances to restrain even the most violent.

November 14: Thursday.

Dr. Bennett sitting for her portrait.

A few minutes after 8 o'clock this morning, I took Dr. Bennett over to Mr. Hovenden's studio to resume the sitting. It is a bright beautiful day, and he will likely do a good deal at it.

Went to "Consho." to see a patient, a special chronic case, a young lady tending rapidly towards Epilepsy. Returning home, stopped to see young Harry Keys who is ill, under care of Dr. Highley, with Typhoid Fever. This afternoon have staid at home, reading, writing, &c.

November 15: Friday.

Met Dr. Highley in the case of young Keys. Then went to Norristown. [Was] home by noon. Went at 2:30 to the Meeting house to the funeral of Ruth Roberts, an aged widow of Isaac Roberts, Clerk in the First Nat. Bank of Conshohocken, a very fine man.

Had a letter and papers today from my nephew Thomas Adamson, Consul-General of Central America at Panama.

November 16: Saturday.

Consulted with Dr. Highley (my nephew) in young Keys' case at 8 A.M. At 12:25 started in my carriage for a visit to little gd. daught. Mary Carter Corson at Mrs. Smith's school in Germantown. She was not at the school, but at her Uncle Robert Corson's in Phila. Then went to daughter Frannie Day, spent more than an hour; then to George Warner; Lizzie Wistar, she was home; Anna Wistar, now Haines, not home; then to Howard Comfort, only Susan (Wistar) at home; then home where I arrived at 6 P.M., just in time to take with Mary a most excellent supper of griddled oysters on toast.

Now nine P.M., after reading all the time since supper, am pretty tired. [Received] a letter from Joseph this evening. Today a letter from Dr. Murray Weidman of Reading, or rather, Berks Co. Medical Society, telling me that my pamphlet on the Recognition of our Hospitals for the care of the insane, and for having female physicians to care for them, was read and discussed by the Society and rec'd. its sanction.

November 17: Sunday.

I spent a rather restless night and awoke this morning with a very bad cold. Did not go out. The weather was disagreeable. After dinner wrote for two hours at my desk. At 4 P.M. went to the barn to see "Matt." In a few minutes got a chill, came into the house and took a quarter grain of sulph. morph. and sat close to a hot stove. It was a whole hour before the chill was entirely over, though the morpheum moderated it greatly.

November 20: Wednesday.

Since last Sunday at 4 or 5 P.M., I have been very sick at stomach. Whether it resulted from the chill, or was caused by the morpheum and heat of the stove, or was the result of the Bronchitis caused by the ride to Germantown, I can't tell. But after the chill subsided and I rose from my chair, I got so sick at stomach as to vomit freely and then, so utterly unable to raise my head from the floor that I could do nothing towards rising from the floor where I lay. After a few minutes, I began to shove myself along on my belly and on reaching the stairs worked myself up, lying "flat on my face" with extreme difficulty. The least attempt to raise myself would result in my falling over. It was a strange condition. After getting on to the bed, I gradually got over my vertigo, but all night was restless, dreaming and almost sleepless. From that time to the present, I have scarcely eaten a mouthful of food; have been fearfully weak and hoarse, with cough showing that the bronchitis is way down through the right lung. This evening I have eaten a little and without nausea.

November 21: Thursday.

Morning. Susan was with me two nights, Helen one, and Bertha last night. I got up at 7 A.M., have had breakfast and feel that I may write a little. I have many letters to answer, which have come since getting sick.

November 23: Saturday.

Been in the house all day, save that I took a few walks to the barn and around the lot. Wrote several letters.

Thomas Hovenden the Artist and Dr. Alice Bennett, the physician who has 856 female insane under her care, and who is now having her portrait painted by Mr. Hovenden, called to see me. Can eat slightly better, but do feel quite miserable.

November 24: Sunday.

Am very weak. At least I feel weak to an unusual degree.

Breakfast at 8 A.M. At 10, Jaywood Lukens & wife Susan came up on horseback & Charles Foulke and Anna Cresson, my gd. daughter, came with Charles Foulke on foot from Norristown.

I took but little dinner. Took a Seidlitz in the forenoon, some aperient at 3 P.M., not any anodyne though I needed it, for I cough quite a good deal. But [as] soon as my carth. med. purges, I will take some anodyne and will then, I hope, be comfortable.

November 28: Thursday.

Thanksgiving Day. Mary and self went to Jawood Lukens' by invitation of daughter Susan, to dine. Jay had gone to The Radnor Club, Fox Hunts Breakfast, expecting to be back to dinner at one P.M. He came. We had a good dinner, a pleasant talk and left for home at 4 P.M.

The above was my first visit away from home since nearly two weeks ago.

Have been using nearly 1/8 gr. sulph. morph. every 24 hours for a few days, and have slept pretty well, and my ability to eat has increased somewhat, my strength too.

My speech at Parrish's. Re-wrote my brief speech at Dr. Parrish's reception and sent it to Prof. Traves today. They want to publish all the proceedings in pamphlet form.



10 P.M. [Received a] letter from Joseph in evening mail. Wrote two long business letters since supper, one to Dr. J. B. Walter, Bucks Co., Pa., the other to Dr. G. Betton Massey, 1706 Walnut St., Phila.

Wrote to Mary Carter Corson.

November 29: Friday.

Letters from Dr. Eugene R. Corson & Dr. W. Stump Forwood & Dr. Linnæs Fussell & Frannie Day. Wrote to Dr. Forwood, Dr. E. R. Corson. Frannie Day, & J. B. Lippincott.

Went to Norristown against a pretty cold, damp wind; imprudent, though very well dressed against cold. Am getting better.

December 1: Sunday.

At home reading, and writing letters nearly all day.

December 2: Monday.

At 12:30 P.M., Frannie Yocom & self went to Spring Mill on our way to Phila. At 2:02 P.M. we took the Limited Express for Chester, Del. Co. where I had promised to meet the Del. Co. Med. Soc. to talk to them "on the importance of having the Superintendents of the State Hospital for the Insane Poor separated from all outside duties, all work save the medical." Now they have all the farms of hundreds of acres of land, and all providing for the whole institution, containing hundreds of male and female insane.

I spoke to them about one hour and twenty minutes. The members then discussed it for some time, passed a vote of thanks for my discourse, and at 5:25 we left Chester for home. At Philad., Frannie left me for her home, and in company of Mrs. Jacob Rex of Norristown, whom we met in the depot at Broad St. I came to Spring Mill where the carriage was ready to take me home, and just after 7 P.M. I was safely here. I was not very able for the trip and speech, but I did not suffer materially from either.

I am so anxious to have the other State hospitals organized like the one at Norristown that I feel impelled at some risk to myself to advocate the reform, making physicians' duties only medical, and also pressing for women doctors in all hospitals where there are Insane females.

Already I have secured the co-operation of Berks, Montgomery, Chester, and now I hope Del. Counties.

December 3: Tuesday.

Nothing special. Busy at home.

December 4: Wednesday.

Brot Frannie Day from Sp. Mill early. After dinner we, with Mary, visited Mr. Hovenden's studio to see Dr. Bennett, whose portrait he is taking. She is not specially pleased with it, but Frannie was so delighted with its perfection that she, Miss Bennett, was greatly gratified. Before 4 P.M. I had Frannie again at Spring Mill, ready for the train home.

Wrote to Joseph. Rec'd. letter from Dr. Walter.

December 5: Thursday.

Was busy at various matters until 4 P.M., then went to Consho. to meet gd. dgt. Frannie Yocom and the daughter of my friend Dr. Stump Forwood of Maryland; brot them up. Jawood Lukens & Thos. Yocom spent the evening here with us.

December 6: Friday.

Miss Forwood & Frannie Yocom go home at 3 P.M. I took them to Conshohocken.

Susan went to New York yesterday to stay two or three days. They visited Helen & the studio today.

December 7: Saturday.

I am feeling pretty weak today, but went to the P.O. at 9 A.M., then rapidly to meet Bertha Yocom Jr. at Sp. Mill; brot her home. At 2 P.M. took her & Mary to Norristown to the fair in aid of the hospital that is being gotten up for Norristown and the County, for injured and sick people.

There were many, many children and a good many grown people, but as it was children's day, they predominated. I did some business at the Bank & elsewhere, and we got home after dark.

December 8: Sunday.

After dinner I wrote five letters. Then as I had read a great deal in the forenoon, & wrote so much in the P.M., at 4 o'clock I got Mary in the carriage, and we rode a few miles.

December 9: Monday.

Was very busy in the forenoon, but first of all, took Bertha Yocom to the 8 A.M. train so that she could reach Phila. in time to get to school early enough.

Afternoon. Took Mary with me to Norristown. I had business at the Trust Co., then [went] to "Margaret's." She gave me a "Smoking Jacket" of Follen's, a fine, thick, costly coat, for wearing at home.

Felt very weak all the afternoon while in Norristown and until since supper. I am greatly broken since the last ten new years. First the new heart trouble in April & on for a month or more. Since then the bad cold in Nov. from which I have not quite regained my strength.

December 10: Tuesday.

Rose early, before seven. Was at Jawood Lukens' at 9 A.M., prepared to go to Laurel Hill Cemetery to give the maker of "Mother's" (wife's) tomb the inscription. Susan agreed to go with me as I was feeling weak and was anxious to have her with me. We took cars to Manayunk, then the street car to Laurel Hill. But before we got there, I was attacked by palpitation. We fixed things with the marble man, but did not go to our lot, because they were fixing the foundation for the monument. Then [we] took the cars again to Girard Avenue, then got out & took Girard Av. car to Frankford Road, where is the Kensington Bank. Got my ½ year's dividend, due in Oct., took the street car again back to 4<sup>th</sup> St. and down 4<sup>th</sup> St. to Chestnut. Went in to the Provident Life & Trust Co.

All this time from just after leaving the train at Manayunk, I was suffering from the palpitation, my heart beating away at 140 per minute. After getting into the Provident and doing some business with the head clerk, I went into Dr. Thomas Wistar's office, same building, & sat down to wait a few minutes and directly the palp. ceased suddenly, as usual. I had a pleasant interview with Dr. Wistar who on two occasions complimented me with poetic effusions.

Being now well, we went to the "United Security Life Insurance and Trust Company" and I drew a ½ year dividend. Then took dinner opposite the "State House;" then up to 11<sup>th</sup> St. above Market, No.16, to an instrument maker to see if we could get a brace for Mary's knee; then up to 9<sup>th</sup> & Green & with the cars for Conshohocken. From there [came] home a little after 5 P.M. Since then have been steadily engaged until now 8 P.M.

During last night and when I rose this morning, I felt so weak that I deemed it almost impossible that I could go to the City to do those various matters, but I resolved to make the effort, and we have the result. I even do not now feel very tired. H.C.

I doubt not that if I could have had a tumbler full of ice water as soon as the palp. attacked me, it would have been stopped at once, as is done now almost every day.

9 P.M. All this evening despite my big-days-work, I have been feeling strong and well, and have read & written all the evening.

December 11: Wednesday.

Rose feeling strong & well this morning, caused I think by 1/16 grain of morph. & a dessert spoonful of Tinct. Gentian taken at dark last evening. Took Mary at 10 A.M. to Consho. Got palp just as I started to see Susan & do some errands. Got home at 12 ½ free from palp. for an hour. Was out on business matters during the afternoon. Read Dr. Wood on pneumonia until 9 P.M. steadily.

December 12: Thursday.

A fine bright, warm day. Got palp. about 10 A.M. It lasted me till 4 ½ P.M. All the time I was either riding about, short rides on business, or else [was] reading or writing. I wrote long letters to Sec. of Northampton Co. Med. Soc. and sent my pamphlets on the subject of separating Superintendents from all work save the medical care of the insane. He is to lay them before the Society on the 20<sup>th</sup>. I had written Dr. Traill Green on the subject and he advised this course.

December 13: Friday.

Slept pretty well. Up not till 7 A.M. That is late for me, or rather would have been quite late a year ago.

December 14: Saturday.

Rainy. Mary & Susan went to Phila. that Mary might be measured for an apparatus to keep her leg from twisting at the knee when walking.

Rec'd. from my friend Dr. Forwood this scrap, an account of the marriage of one of the illustrious ones of the Forwood family. [the marriage of Harold Stanley Forwood and Miss Kate Childs Wynkoop] So I paste it here to preserve it for some one who may be interested in the family.

December 16: Monday.

Yesterday I read till 10 A.M. quite steadily, then got in the carriage & went to Hicksite Meeting. A nice quiet time it was till Joel Lare [Lair] began to preach.

Last night at midnight I had chills in bed for nearly an hour. Took 1/8 gr. morph., piled on plenty of clothes, and about day-light got into a sweat. Got up at usual time and have been "about" all day. Have taken Quinine today.

December 17: Tuesday.

I was pretty miserable yesterday and awake till midnight last night. Twice yesterday had palpitation, but put it off as soon as I drank a tumbler of very cold water. After midnight, & a small dose of "Janney's Mixture" to stop a tendency to diarrhea, I rested well.

I seem to be breaking down, am weaker and much more ailing than at this date last year.

December 19: Thursday.

Frannie came to Sp. Mill at 9 A.M. & I brought her home. She staid till 3 ½ P.M., when I took her again to Spring Mill for home. I gave her \$25 to give to Lillie Bacon, daughter of "Mother's" sister Hannah, who is engaged to be married, and who has had long & strong opposition from her mother, while all the rest of Lillie's relatives have been in favor of the marriage.

Daughter Frannie is a very cheerful bright woman, as all our daughters are.

Had a pleasant letter from Son Joseph today. Every week for so many years we have had letters from him. How pleasant!

I had palpitation for 2 hours last evening. To check it, took 60 drops Tct. Digitalis and 1/8 gr. morph. Could not sleep till 4 o'clock this morning, but was easy.

December 21: Saturday.

Yesterday & today I have been busy at many things. This afternoon was at Ambler, brot Emily Corson Jr. with me. Called myself on Dr. Shelly, and both of us paid a short visit to Dr. Hough & wife. I paid a professional visit to Geo. Corson's baby.

Rec'd invitation to the wedding of Prof. Lowe's daughter ----- to Mr. Wright, yesterday.

Sent \$15 to daughter Bertha as a Christmas present. Sent it thus early, that she would have time to use it judiciously. So that makes \$25 given away this week.

Today I received from Dr. Eugene Corson of Savannah a portrait of himself in his study. He is only son, now only child of my nephew Hiram Corson, L.L.D. of Cornell University, who is on a 15 mo. Visit to Germany, Switzerland, Italy & France.

Today, too, I rec'd. from Heath & Co., publisher in Boston, a copy of Hiram's "Introduction to the Study of Shakespeare."

December 22: Sunday.

9 ½ P.M. Have been at home reading & writing, &c., all day save a brief trip out to Helen's and a stay of half an hour or so with Mary. Jay, Susan & Mary Carter Corson [were] here a short time in the forenoon.

December 25: Wednesday.

I was weak to a great degree all day. I had much writing but would not write longer than a single letter without a rest.

Presents came thick & fast. Paper for letters from Susan, Prof. Corson's Shakespeare from Bertha, things from Mary Carter, Frannie Day, Frannie Yocom, &c., &c., and such a host of presents as Mary had for Jane's children, for Charley Haigh [Haight], the little boy who lives with us, Matilda, his mother. Robert the man, Mary Young & others.

Mr. Hovenden & Helen, Dr. E. M. Corson's wife, Louisa Corson (Dick's wife), & Bayard Corson, home from Norwalk School, and Susan & Jay were here. Isaac Roberts & wife here to see me yesterday.

I have been wonderfully weak today. I gave \$5 to our woman Tildy today, a Christmas present. She has been so faithful, never away for an hour, save one day in two months to the City, or two days in three months. Irish girls take one day every other week, and generally two or three evenings out per week, and too their "day out" is on Sunday, which does not suit us.

December 29: Sunday.

Since Christmas I have been at home nearly all the time, rode out nearly every day a mile or two, as to Sp. Mill Station or Consho. and yesterday to Norristown.

Have had a great many letters and have replied to them all & written some others. From Buffalo & from Staunton, Va. have had appeals for information on the subject of the success of women physicians in Hospitals for the Insane.

December 30: Monday.

This morning our woman took her little son Charley Haight to Phila. to have him put into Girard College, if she can bear to do it. The little fellow went along cheerfully, but did not realize at all I think that he was to stay, that his mother would return here without him. I feel really quite sad about it. He is such a pleasant, smart, fellow that we all like him greatly. Poor woman it seems as if it is almost too much for her. He has always been with her, day & night.

I have been busy today collecting Bills. Have done very well.

Dr. Alice Bennett called to see me today. Her portrait [is] nearly done.

Tuesday 31: Tuesday.

Last day of 1889.

## ENDNOTES

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<sup>i</sup> Cinchonidia, or cinchonidine, used to reduce fever. The sulphate form is less bitter than quinine and is valuable as an antipyretic.

<sup>ii</sup> Because there was at the time much opposition to the Senator's stand on religious freedom, Dr. Corson wrote to him that he approved of his conduct. In his March 27, 1878, letter to Dr. Corson, Senator Jones wrote, "I assure you that I shall keep that letter as a memento of my fight in behalf of Religious Liberty. You would be surprised to know how bigotry governs the members of this body in a matter so plain as the Bill which I had the honor to introduce and defend. You cannot convince these people that every body has the right to worship God as he chooses provide he does not interfere with others."

<sup>iii</sup> Rebecca Pawling Freedley.

<sup>iv</sup> Probably William H. Drayton, vice-president of the Board of City Trusts

<sup>v</sup> Charles Edouard Brown-Séquard (1817-1894).

<sup>vi</sup> Presumably Dr. John T. Ray of Meadville, Crawford County.

<sup>vii</sup> While "ague" generally refers to recurrent symptom of malarial origin, it was also used to describe conditions with symptoms resembling those of malarial fever.

<sup>viii</sup> Dr. Carl Seiler of Philadelphia.

<sup>ix</sup> Dr. Thomas J. Dunott of Harrisburg.

<sup>x</sup> Sheelah's Day is March 18, the day after St. Patrick's Day. It is the day dedicated to Sheelah-Na-Gig, the goddess of fertility and sexuality. Naked sheela-na-gig figures may still be seen in Irish churches constructed before the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The "drowning of the shamrock" has become associated with Sheelah's Day.

<sup>xi</sup> Dr. Anna S. Kugler, who was also a member of the Montgomery County Medical Society.

<sup>xii</sup> Probably Dr. T. J. Gallaher or Dr. R. J. Gallaher, both of Pittsburgh.

<sup>xiii</sup> Dr. E. A. Wood of Pittsburgh.

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<sup>xiv</sup> Derived from the root of *Aconitum napellus*. It was used in various forms as liquid and powder and as a liniment in combination with camphor and rectified spirit. It depresses the heart, respiration and nerves. It is said to be very poisonous. It was also used as an antipyretic, diaphoretic, and diuretic.

<sup>xv</sup> Dr. Philip Y. Eisenberg of Norristown.

<sup>xvi</sup> Cannabis Indica, which is one type of two varieties of Cannabis sativa. Their flowering tops yield a resin from which Hydride of Cannabene was obtained and used as an antispasmodic, anesthetic, narcotic, and a powerful aphrodisiac.

<sup>xvii</sup> A newspaper clipping of a poem titled, (For the "Record.") DICKENS, signed T.S.K., who was a resident of Newtown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

<sup>xviii</sup> An alkaloid obtained from *Veratrum viride*.

<sup>xix</sup> Dr. Corson's reference is to the Gheel system of caring for the insane. This system of caring for the insane with no homicidal tendencies is thought to be the most humane method of caring for these patients. In this system, private persons care for the harmless insane able to work and share in the day to day labor.

<sup>xx</sup> 1800 Spruce St.  
Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1883

Dr. Hiram Corson  
Plymouth, Montg. Co., Penna.

My Dear Doctor.

I have been accustomed to use summer leisure, in the arrangement or preparation of winter work. Don't therefore think me premature, in anticipating the work for the State Medical Society next spring. I should like to know your sentiment on the advantage or propriety of having two or three scientific medical papers read by female graduates, members of the Society at its next meeting; also your suggestion of suitable persons to whom such an invitation to read a paper, can be early sent.

The State Society you will remember meets next year in Phila. Our County Society tho' admitting the constitutional right of female M.D.s to become members, yet has a party who invariably blackball them when presented for membership by our censors. I merely state facts. Can not the female members of the State Society make these men yield, by showing in their papers, their medical knowledge. Think it over & let me know your views on the subject, not as to the propriety of such blackballs, but how we can most certainly overcome the prejudices & intolerance of a Clique. You have two good women in Norristown; perhaps you know others. I am unacquainted with any else where. I believe now but members can read papers. Can they be elected as Delegates from elsewhere. There is no chance for them at present in Phila. If you can converse with Alice Bennett at the Insane Institution

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perhaps you may obtain the names I desire to have.

There is, you will see, ample time for anyone to prepare their papers. But I trust You will not defer your action on this request.

Very Sincerely, Your Friend  
Henry H. Smith

<sup>xxi</sup> Quill is Scilla, obtained from the bulb of *S. maritime*. It is a diuretic and expectorant and is supposed to act like digitalis.

<sup>xxii</sup> Charles Heber Clark, of The Textile Record of America, No. 425 Walnut Street, Philadelphia.

<sup>xxiii</sup> Copper aceto-arsenite, which was used as a pigment and also as an insecticide.

<sup>xxiv</sup> The printed copy in the diary, the program titled, SEMI-CENTENNIAL OF FREEDOM, listing Robert Purvis, Chairman, and Daniel Neall, Secretary, as well as a printed copy of the DECLARATION OF THE ANTI-SLAVERY CONVENTION, adopted in Philadelphia, December 6, 1833, by the organizers of the National Anti-Slavery Society. These included from Maine, David Thurston, Nathan Winslow, Joseph Southwick, James Frederic Otis, Isaac Winslow; from New Hampshire, David Campbell; from Vermont, Orson S. Murray; from Massachusetts, Daniel S. Southmayd, Effingham L. Capron, Joshua Coffin, Amos A. Phelps, John G. Whittier, Horace P. Wakefield, James G. Barbadoes, David T. Kimball, Jr., Daniel E. Jewett, John R. Campbell, Nathaniel Southard, Arnold Buffum, William L. Garrison; from Rhode Island, John Prentice, George W. Benson, Ray Potter; from Connecticut, Samuel J. May, Alpheus Kingsley, Edwin A. Stillman, Simeon S. Jocelyn, Robert B. Hall; from New York Beriah Green, Jr., Lewis Tappan, John Rankin, William Green, Jr., Abraam [sic] L. Cox, William Goodell, Elizur Wright, Jr., Charles W. Denison, John Frost; from New Jersey, Jonathan Parkhurst, Chalkley Gillingham, John McCullough, James White; from Pennsylvania, Evan Lewis, Edwin A. Atlee, Robert Purvis, Jas. McCrummell, Thomas Shipley, Barth'w Fussell, David Jones, Enoch Mack, James Miller McKim, Aaron Vickers, James Loughhead, Edwin P. Atlee, Thomas Whitson, John R. Sleeper, John Sharp, Jr., James Mott; from Ohio, John M. Sterling, Milton Sutliff, Leni Sutliff.

Dr. Corson added in his hand-writing, "where was Lucretia? It looks as though they, at that time, did not count women. Lucretia Mott was even then equal to Garrison. H.C.

<sup>xxv</sup> The official printed announcement pasted in the diary lists the following lecturers: Lecture I, Dr. Hiram Corson of Plymouth; Lecture II, Dr. S. N. Wiley of Norristown; Lecture III, Dr. Wm. Savery of Bryn Mawr; Lecture IV, Dr. Robt. H. Chase of Norristown; Lecture V, Dr. John Paxson of Jenkintown; Lecture VI, Dr. Mary H. Stinson of Norristown; Lecture VII, Dr. G. B. Sargent of Bryn Mawr; Lecture VIII, Dr. J. C. Spear, U.S.N.; Lecture IX, Dr. D. R. Beaver of Conshohocken; Lecture X, Dr. E. M. Corson of Norristown; Lecture XI, Dr. J. K. Weaver of Norristown; Lecture XII,



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Dr. Robt. Coltman of Jenkintown; Lecture XIII, Dr. L. W. Read of Norristown; Lecture XIV, Dr. Samuel Wolfe of Skippack; Lecture XV, Dr. J. O. Knipe of Norristown; Lecture XVI, Dr. George M. Stiles for Dr. J. K. Reid of Conshohocken. The lectures were given weekly at “The Society’s Rooms, Quillman Building, Norristown, Penna.

<sup>xxvi</sup> Robert Emory Pattison, Governor of Pennsylvania from 1883-1887 and 1891-1895.

<sup>xxvii</sup> From a newspaper clipping in the diary we learn that the four new appointees were F. Asbury Awl and W. Penn Lusk of Harrisburg, Dr. A. H. Light of Lebanon, and R. A. Orr of Franklin.

<sup>xxviii</sup> Henry Armitt Brown.

<sup>xxix</sup> Hydrargyrum Massa, also called “blue mass” or “blue pill.” It was used mainly as a purgative. It consisted of the following parts: mercury 33, liquorice 5, althea 25, glycerin 3, and confection of rose 34.

<sup>xxx</sup> Black Snake Root, the root of *C. racemosa*, *Cimicifuga Racemosa*.

<sup>xxxi</sup> The fruit of *Rhus glabra*, Smooth Sumach. As a dilute juice, it was a relatively pleasant “astringent drink in catarrhal affections of the stomach and bowels,” because it contained tannic acid and malates of potassium and calcium.

<sup>xxxii</sup> As used then, Fowler’s solution was made up of 1 part arsenic acid, 1 part of potassium bicarbonate, comp. tinct. lavender 3 parts, and distilled water to add up to 100 parts.

<sup>xxxiii</sup> Dr. O. H. Allis of Philadelphia.

<sup>xxxiv</sup> Coeur d’Alene was named Fort Coeur d’Alene in 1879. When the town became incorporated in 1887, the Fort was renamed Fort Sherman.

<sup>xxxv</sup> What Dr. Corson describes is typical of Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome of which his attacks of palpitations are reciprocating tachycardias of the regular narrow QRS type involving AV node and accessory pathway. Electrocardiograms were not yet in clinical use. The physiologist August D. Walter of St. Mary’s Medical School, London, published the first human electrocardiogram in 1887.

<sup>xxxvi</sup> Sixes were long term bonds bearing interests at a rate of six per cent per year.